

PEEL WEEKLY NEWS

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Apr. 29, 2021



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Apr. 29, 2021

Province pushes for capacity as cases stress system



NEWS Pg 8

Province and feds spar over paid sick leave package



NEWS Pg 18

Credit Valley Conservation picks up "green" nod



BUSINESS Pg 22

Valleywood Library unveils plans for new Makerspace



LIFESTYLE Pg 27

Mississauga taps writer as new Youth Poet Laureate



LIFESTYLE Pg 34

Community in mourning after COVID claims Brampton teen

by Alex Gregory

13 year-old Emily Victoria Viegas, as seen in an undated handout photo, succumbed to COVID-19 this past weekend to a combination of COVID-19 and pneumonia, doctors said. A fundraiser for Viegas, who lived in Brampton, has raised more than \$131,400 as of Wednesday evening. (Photo Courtesy of Maria Viegas)

Shock and sadness dominated Brampton this weekend, as a local teen succumbed to COVID-19 — one of the youngest victims of the pandemic to date.

Emily Victoria Viegas, 13, was admitted to Brampton Civic Hospital and succumbed to the virus last Thursday, after she displayed respiratory issues and became unresponsive while at her east Brampton home.

Carlos Viegas, Emily's father, and the rest of their family were under self-isolation at the time, and Emily's mother was on oxygen at Brampton Civic after displaying similar COVID symptoms.

Emily's death has cast a spotlight on the increasing

vulnerability of both front-line workers — Carlos was a warehouse worker in Brampton — but of increasingly-visible cases involving youths contracting the virus during the province's third wave.

Community members, including members of Viegas' family, friends and community advocates showed their support online.

"As a parent, I am lost for words," said Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown. "(It's) horrifying."

"This tragedy, a child's death due to COVID-19, should NEVER happen again," said local resident Josie Racco on a fundraiser set up by friends of the Viegas family. "Rest in peace, Emily."

"I can't imagine the unbearable pain and sorrow they are feeling right now," Premier Doug Ford said on Sunday. "It's heart-wrenching and a devastating reminder of what this virus can do. On behalf of all Ontarians, I'm sending my deepest condolences to everyone who is suffering from the terrible loss of this young life."

A GoFundMe page has been set up to raise funds for the family, with more than \$133,000 raised by the community as of press time.

Residents interested in donating to the fund can visit the campaign at gofundme.com/f/emily-victoria-viegas.

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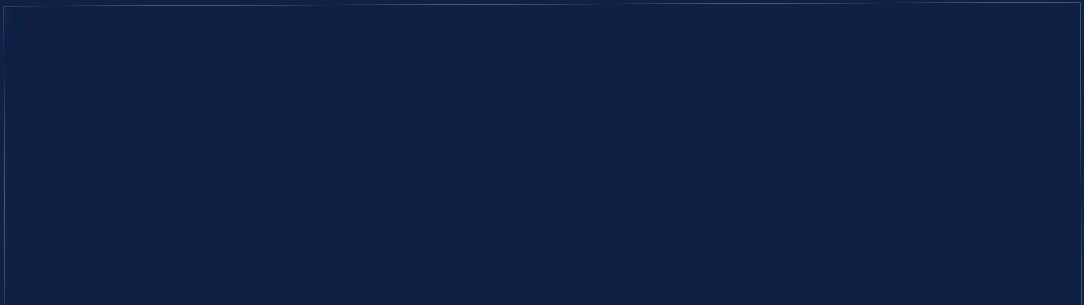
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City curtails coyotes with new management program

Not quite “coyote ugly”.

Mississauga rolled out plans to curb conflicts between coyotes and residents with a new management program unveiled at Wednesday’s regular general committee meeting.

The new program, the latest in a series of initiatives throughout Peel to clamp down on coyote migration into urban areas, details specific strategies to minimize impacts between coyotes and residents, including their pets.

The program was instituted in response to a large uptick in coyote sightings — 50 per cent over the past

year based on map data, says Mississauga Animal Services manager Jay Smith.

Under the new program, fees will increase from \$100 to \$300 for residents who feed major wildlife, while a conflict classification group will outline potential responses to coyote interactions based on location, sightings and other factors.

Similar incidents with coyote sightings have occurred in Brampton over the past several years, prompting direction from councillors and city staff to curb the situation.



Employees self-isolate as postal facility faces outbreak

Nearly a week after tough new rules regarding COVID-19 workplace outbreaks launched, a Mississauga postal facility is facing a renewed outbreak of cases.

Approximately 80 employees at Canada Post’s Gateway facility on Dixie Road were sent into self-isolation after several confirmed cases were found by Peel Public Health.

In a statement, the postal carrier

confirmed that the outbreak impacted all of the employees in an afternoon shift, including employees and contractors, with the impacted individuals sent home Tuesday once the news was confirmed.

Approximately 12 employees who work at the Gateway facility have tested positive for the virus within the last week, public data released by Peel Public Health confirms.

As of Wednesday afternoon, eight workplaces were forced to partially close operations due to confirmed cases, with shifts impacted at Amazon warehouses in Brampton and Bolton, along with a Canadian Tire distribution centre on Goreway Drive in Brampton, and an auto dealer on Woodchester Drive, near Winston Churchill Boulevard.



Province revs up legislation to combat excessive speeding

by Alex Gregory

Residents in areas of Peel with high rates of excessive will have reason to celebrate, as the province pushes the greenlight on new legislation that seeks to curb unsafe and aggressive driving.

The province announced Wednesday afternoon that a new piece of legislation, the “Moving Ontarians More Safely” Act, will introduce new measures to combat high-risk driving and improve road safety, including greater oversight and protections through the towing industry, increase suspensions on drivers’ licences and provide harsher penalties to drivers who

engage in stunt racing, aggressive driving and reckless behaviour behind the wheel.

Mississauga-Streetsville MPP Nina Tangri, who introduced a private members’ motion in February regarding stunt and street racing in areas of Peel, including Brampton and Caledon, told Peel Weekly News Wednesday that she was proud to see the legislation being introduced.

“The message I’ve been hearing from the community is clear: this has become an increasing problem and action must be taken. These new measures will keep Ontario’s roads safe and prevent repeat of-

fences through escalating post-conviction penalties.”

The legislation, if passed, would also boost measures to improve truck safety and highway workers through an associated enforcement act, which would require truck driv-

ers and operators to be certified and increase standards for roadside behaviours, along with additional penalties for non-compliance.

“I am extremely concerned by the rising numbers of young drivers in Ontario caught

stunt driving, street racing and driving aggressively,” said Transportation Minister Mulroney, who unveiled the legislation Wednesday at Queen’s Park. “By increasing driver’s licence suspen-

sions and vehicle impoundment periods, the MOMS Act sends a clear message to drivers — driving is a privilege and those who threaten the safety of others have no place on our roads.”



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Air Travel, COVID-19 and Variants — What's The Truth?



Peter Whitaker
Publisher

With the ban on incoming flights into Pearson from some countries this past week due to spiking COVID-19 cases, the federal government finally decided to flex some muscle... but to what end?

Are airports the problem? I have yet to see any evidence that the "Airport" is the problem. If anything, they have been some of the most stringent locations for testing in the country.

Logic says it must be, because we have had all these flight arriving daily from all over the world,

and our numbers have gone crazy!

Let's review and ask some questions as we chart this process.

Travellers receive a PCR test 48 hours before they leave the country they're in, and when they arrive in Canada, they receive another test.

If we are testing all travellers, where's the weak link?

We are supposed to be all about the science. Where in God's name are the statistics?

If they are kept somewhere, it must be a state secret, because — as a mem-

ber of the media — I have yet to see them.

As for variants, they are clearly here, but if they were discovered here, why are they not being caught in those other countries?

Again, logic is all we need to solve a lot of these issues.

What I will do is give our provincial government some credit. They have been raising the alarm about all the leaky border crossings, flights and inter province travel for months.

For most of the time we've had the pandemic, our health chiefs are on the ball, calling for the feds to step in.

Trudeau has his hands full with all the facets of our economy, and I'm

sure he does not know what hit him.

He's not alone — he has ministers and staff, as well as consultants and others to call on for advice — so why do we not have policies in place to cover all aspects of the pandemic, and why are we only now making decisions that should have been made weeks or months ago?

Watching the third wave numbers, it seems worse than any projections. We are now in a waiting game to see if we will survive April and May.

According to reports, help is on the way from several fronts — the army, the East Coast provinces and the Red Cross. This help

will see our hospital staff get some much needed help.

It's easy to notice how other countries are dealing with travel.

Some countries, like the U.K., have a set of different rules for travellers coming in from "red zone" locations.

I also give the U.K. credit for their communication with their residents. It is clear and precise, and they all know the situation every day. More countries should look to their example when it comes to communicating policies to travellers.

Can we just get organized and keep to a plan? Doug, Justin, this is all the public are asking for.

Resilient Communities Fund springs up for tree agency

by Catherine Soplek

"With COVID-19 lockdown, we are missing our spring season for two years in a row," said Alice Casselman, the founder and president of tree planting agency the Association for Canadian Educational Resources (ACER)

"The public schools were closed for spring 2020 planting, and in the fall they were restricted from any extracurricular activities," Alice continued.

Now with an \$80,100 award from Ontario's Resilient Community Fund, ACER can "keep working hard for the community, and be ready for fall," said Mississauga Lakeshore MPP Rudy Cuzzetto.

ACER's headquarters is based

in his riding.

ACER is the preferred school yard tree planting agency of Mississauga's One Million Trees program.

Through its volunteers, ACER has contributed an inventory of 1726 trees since 2013.

Thousands more native trees and ecosystem shrubs have been planted across 13 Conservation Authorities rimming the Golden Horseshoe Area.

Recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 is the purpose of the investment from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

As the economy has forced all business processes to move on-line, the largely in-person activities of the non-profit sector

are also seeking to adapt.

However, key revenue sources from donors, fundraising activities, and program delivery have dried up in the business sector.

ACER has been no exception.

"In six months time, we can all be ready for school-involved planting," says Alice.

"In fall 2020, we field tested how school yard tree planting can be a way to safely bring remote and bricks-and-mortar students together safely, and socially, with enriching STEM, ecology and outdoor education curriculum."

Alice is happy to see that COVID-19 vaccine confidence is increasing, and

government health officials anticipate that by fall 2021, all Ontarians aged 16 years or older can be immunized if they so choose.

During 2020, ACER saw only one project funded for a pilot project to extend the Planting for Change climate change lab from school yard sites to publicly-accessed community settings.

Dubbed Project Crossroads, the urban reforestation initiative contributed five climate lab installations to Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program.

Now, with funds to hire external trainers and consultants, ACER's full suite of programs can accelerate adaptation to

Pandemic protocols and digital delivery.

New content will be generated for additional on-line resources, training and hosting of community stakeholder meetings. "Trees are the earth's lungs," says Alice. "It is symbolic and healing for us all to recover from lung-disease COVID by planting more trees."

ACER is looking forward to resume delivering its mission of helping communities learn about their environment, take climate action that restores tree canopy to mitigate extreme weather events, monitor and sustain tree thriving, and share data for international climate change research.

Opinion

Is Ford hoping to beat COVID-19 on the cheap?



Surjit Singh Flora
Column

After Ontario Premier Doug Ford promised to implement the "best" paid sick leave program in North America, the provincial government announced that workers infected with COVID-19 will be able to get three paid sick days.

The program will be managed by the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB), and the provincial government will reimburse employers with 100 per cent of employee salaries — up to \$200 a day.

Amid a wave of negative publicity, Ford finally pushed forward with steps to double the federal program's paid sick day program from \$500 to \$1,000 for a week.

My hypothesis: Ford is hoping to beat the virus on the cheap. He has plans for that \$12 billion

that is likely not health-related, maybe an excellent tax cut at the end of all of this without cutting services, so he looks like a hero.

I certainly understand how frustration has become anger regarding his handling of COVID-19.

Aside from the Atlantic provinces (and possibly BC), until recently, one cannot assign a satisfactory grade toward how Canadian provinces have dealt with the pandemic.

Instead, one generally beholds compromises between public health and commerce, the greater public good and personal freedom. In accordance with a moral of an old Aesop fable, he/she who tries to please everyone ends up satisfying nobody.

I think this characterizes the provincial responses toward COVID-19 overall. While I think Trudeau's less than stellar procurement

of vaccines currently enfeebles our response toward the pandemic, the political fallout from COVID-19 affects provincial premiers more since health-care ultimately falls under provincial jurisdiction.

I suspect Premier Ford's political destiny has already been determined, and he'll meet election defeat along with Legault in Quebec and Kenney in Alberta.

Failed responses to the pandemic are ultimately political failures, and I figure that the pandemic will cause the demise of populist governance in Canada more than anything else.

In the beginning, he played a good game. But he never provided the economic and other resources necessary to properly implement the measures required to control the spread of the infection.

He tried to 'balance' the actions taken to both protect the population

and allow the economy to continue unfettered in the short term.

As a consequence, he did neither.

Also, the economy has declined over a more extended period than necessary because people who could reduce their personal risk withdrew and stopped going out to eat, drink and buy stuff.

Those who had no other options to continue feeding themselves were forced to continue working, often in crowded conditions that hastened the spread of the virus — and the damage to themselves and their families.

Even Mayors in Peel and abroad, along with many other leaders and health officials, keep asking him for the sick day pay leave.

Because there was no hard lockdown that lasted until the infection rate as close to zero as possible, followed by an adequate test, trace and isolate protocol, the virus con-

tinued circulating in the population.

Then, when the restrictions were eased, exponential growth resumed from relatively high levels.

We now have a situation in which the medical system is at risk of breaking down. In the next month, we may have situations in which people who desperately need medical care are refused because there is no hospital capacity.

He probably didn't count on all the deaths that he never mentions, and maybe doesn't realize that exponential growth means each delay exacts an increasing death toll.

I don't know why he isn't pushing out the vaccines as fast as he can. But the vaccine part I will not blame on him because whatever comes from the federal side, he's doing his best to get into the arms of residents.

But I feel pity for Premier Ford; I

wouldn't want to be in his shoes. He has teachers and "front line" health providers chewing on his ass, telling all who will listen how stressed they are.

The business owners are chewing on his ass about lost revenue and that they should be open. The top disease specialists are telling him that the variants are spreading faster than we can immunize and that we need the province shut down.

He has the NDP and the Liberals spewing their usual rhetoric instead of helping the situation. He can't shut down again because of simple mathematics; he will have people and businesses going tits up financially.

He can't afford it with no tax dollars coming in to save anyone. That all got used up a while ago. He's rapped up tight in a vice, and he knows it. He learns to do what needs to be done; the province is screwed up already.

Black Community Engagement Sessions

MAY 6 TO JUNE 29



Opinion

As Canada and China trade barbs — who will blink first?

by Vidya Gopaul

It is quite interesting to note that the first letter of Canada and China starts with the same letter - C - and they are at odds with each other.

On one hand, Canada has arrested Huawei CFO Meng Wanzhou at the Vancouver airport at the request of the United States, claiming that she lied about the business dealings with Iran.

On the other hand, China has arrested two Canadians, Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and entrepreneur Michael Spavor in 2018 shortly after Ms. Meng's arrest — it seems an apparent retaliation.

It is a battle of two extremely different countries. I believe that the release of the two Michaels will not happen unless the release of Meng Wanzhou is included in the same package.

We have to remember that we are dealing with two different political, judicial,

legal, social and cultural systems.

Canada is a democratic country, whereas China is a Communist country which has a one political party system and the leader does change quite often.

As much as Canada likes to discredit China in every which way, one has to realize that the latter does have political and judicial systems that serve its purposes to its citizens.

Canada is trying to resolve a very sensitive case by saying China's judicial system is not a legitimate system.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is saying that if China does not practice the same type of Canadian judicial system and political affiliation as his way of doing business, then it is not legitimate.

By the same token, he is implying that if you practice and believe the same religion as he does

then other religion is not a legitimate religion.

As if, "My god is better than yours." It does not work that way.

If Western political leaders believe that a democratic government is the best in the world then by now we would have all countries adhere to a democratic system. But as we know, this is not the case.

Russia, China, North Korea, some Indonesian countries and most Middle Eastern countries have a non-democratic political and judicial system.

I always believe that any political system is justified on its own merit, just like any religion, culture and judicial are justified on their merits. I cannot say my religion is better than yours or my culture is better than yours. To like them or to believe in them is a different matter.

Therefore, for Trudeau to cate-

gorically say out loud that China's judicial system is illegitimate will not help him advance his cause, and that is, to secure the release of the two Michaels.

I am sure China probably has the same negative opinion of Trudeau's judicial government.

On one hand, Trudeau practices the "rule of law" in the dealing with Meng's case and on the other hand, he has been allegedly accused of interfering in the SNC-Lavalin affair case, then expelled the then-attorney general, Jody Wilson-Raybould, from his cabinet when she dared to stand up against the order.

He is lecturing the Chinese government on human rights, and in the meantime, his government, military department and RCMP are plagued with sexual harassment and racism issues.

Let's face it. No country, political or social structure is perfect by

someone else's standards. They all have their flaws by other's standards.

Therefore, we have to find a common ground when dealing with international and world affairs.

Hence, what Trudeau has to do is, to quote the title of his book, find a common ground, and have a conversation with Chinese government to secure the release of the two Michaels while finding a reasonable solution to resolve Meng Wanzhou's case, instead of constantly lashing out and criticizing China in every which way. I do not think China is appreciative of it.

Trudeau is rallying other countries to join him to secure the release of the two Michaels. But the other countries can only do so much — and do not forget that China is only one of the two super powers in trades.

Hence, other countries do not want to jeopard-

ize their relationship with China on the back of Trudeau's government.

What is very ironic and hypocritical is that Canada is still buying products from China — from appliances, parts for cars, computer chips, cell phones down to clothes and socks.

I just bought a Mercedes-Benz toy car for my grandkids, and when I opened the box, it said, "Made in China."

Trudeau is in sandwiched between China and the U.S.

Who to please? Send Meng Wanzhou home to China or extradite her to the U.S.

At the end of the day, it is the ultimate decision of the Attorney General of Canada to allow the extradition to the U.S. or not.

The question is — who will blink first, Canada or China?

We will see! Stay tuned!

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Province pushes for additional capacity as cases stress system

As intensive care unit (ICU) capacity reaches a critical shortage, the province said Wednesday that it would be pursuing emergency orders to move patients in need of urgent care, in both Peel and other hotspot areas.

The province announced that it would institute the new emergency protocol this week to ensure that the province has enough space to handle COVID-19 patients in need of ventilators.

The province saw record numbers of COVID patients in Ontario hospitals, with an all-time high of 875 patients in hospital ICUs.

As such, the triage protocol would give hospitals the power to move patients to long-term care (LTC) homes or retirement homes without the patients' consent if the number of ICU patients reaches a crisis point.

Hundreds of individuals in hospital are waiting to be discharged to a long-term care home or another more appropriate care setting and first priority will be given to patients with less complex care needs and those who are able to be moved close to their preferred choice.

"The spread of COVID-19 variants continues to pose a significant threat to our health system's critical care capacity and the lives of Ontarians," Health Min-

ister Christine Elliott said in a statement Wednesday afternoon, noting that it was an "extremely difficult" decision to make.

"The consequences of not doing so could be devastating if we don't have the hospital beds we urgently need to care for the growing number of COVID-19 patients."

Hospitals may rely upon the order only when necessary to respond to a major surge event, when the attending physician is satisfied that the patient will receive the care they require at the long-term care or retirement home.

Transfers will only be made when medical professionals are confident they will not compromise the patient's medical condition, and where all of the other conditions specified within the order have been met including agreement by the home that they can meet the patient's needs. Every effort will be made to ensure these patients are fully immunized from COVID-19 before moving.

Patients who are not placed in their first choice of long-term care or who are transferred to a retirement home will retain their priority on the long-term care waitlist for their first-choice home.

On April 23, 2021, the government waived the co-payment for hospital patients with a destination of long-term care

who are transferred to a long-term care home that is not their first choice until they transfer to their first-choice home or decide to stay in their current home.

Similarly, the retirement home's care and accommodation costs to the individual will be waived until they receive a placement offer from their first-choice long-term care home. Funding will be provided to the retirement home from the government.

The province also announced Wednesday that over 4.7 million vaccine doses have been administered across the province as of Tuesday, including shots delivered to 64,000 long-term care residents and 56,000 retirement home residents.

"Hospitals are doing everything they can to maintain and sustain capacity by transferring patients out of hotspot regions and redeploying staff and resources but the pressures are unrelenting," said Ontario Hospital Association president and CEO Anthony Dale. "(We) recognize that great sensitivity to the care needs of residents is required at all times, especially under today's very challenging conditions. It is essential that hospitals work very closely with patients and families experiencing a transition in care during this difficult period."

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Caledon seeks change with ambitious climate plan

by Alex Gregory

Councillors in Caledon rolled out an ambitious climate change plan this week, hoping to make a dent in greenhouse gas emissions and position the Town for future.

Town Council approved the ambitious plan at Tuesday evening's regular meeting, which includes a pledge to meet greenhouse gas reduction targets and hit net zero emissions by 2050.

"I'm proud that we have passed this plan, and especially during Earth Month," Mayor

Allan Thompson told Peel Weekly News Wednesday afternoon. "Considering that Council had declared a climate emergency in Jan. 2020, this means that the Town and community members together can collectively work towards a common goal of reducing GHG emissions."

The plan outlines over 60 actions that the Town will implement over the next decade, including greater support for local agricultural systems; supporting low-carbon transportation initiatives in the Town and

abroad; transitioning to low-carbon energy sources; developing core infrastructure (such as roads and bridges) to be developed to withstand major weather events; and reducing emissions from the Town's own energy sources.

The success of this plan will be a combined effort from residents, schools, businesses, other agencies and levels of government, said Thompson.

Residents can learn more about the plan by visiting the project website at caledon.ca/climate-change.



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Shortfalls discussed as budget talks continue

The struggle is real.

Budget talks continued this week in Mississauga, as councillors and city staff considered current funding shortfalls and strategies as it continues to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic.

The city's budget committee estimated that its projected shortfall for 2021 will be \$59.9 million, caused by reduced revenues from city service areas such as MiWay and recreation, as well as a long-term loss of Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) revenues from the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA), which is projected to con-

tinue through next year.

"City staff is reviewing potential actions to address future shortfalls... the currently announced federal and provincial funding will not be sufficient to fully offset 2022 and 2023 pressures," said the city's chief financial officer, Gary Kent.

The city also faces continued challenges on next year's operating and capital budgets, along with its stormwater charge program, said Mayor Bonnie Crombie.

"Mississauga has been in lockdown since Nov. 2020, and the city, along with Mississauga residents and businesses, con-

tinued to face significant financial hardships," Crombie said late Wednesday. "The reality is that public health measures have severely impacted many service areas. Transit ridership and revenues have significantly decreased, along with revenue and user fees from our recreational and cultural facilities. Our costs have remained the same, while our revenues have plummeted."

The city previously faced a deficit position of \$55.5 million last year, forcing hiring cutbacks and temporary cost-cutting measures to offset expenditures.

While provincial and federal funding has provided a critical lifeline, including the Safe Restart Agreement, which reduced the deficit to zero last year, the city will continue to face revenue shortfalls into 2022 "and beyond," said city manager Paul Mitcham.

"The information we are looking at today will give us the ability to continue our work across the corporation to proactively manage the budget as we go forward," said Mitcham.

Staff will report on an updated year-end position in June at a budget committee meeting.

Protestors charged in anti-lockdown rally

Two anti-mask protestors have been fined \$880 each for participating in a rally earlier this month, 11 Division's Criminal Investigation Bureau said late last week.

The division reported that the charges came down in connection with an anti-lockdown rally hosted by the group "We Are All Essential" on Apr. 12, which was held in Mississauga's downtown core.

More than 40 people gathered at the corner of Duke of York Boulevard and City Centre

Drive, with participants not wearing masks and ignoring provincial guidelines regarding gatherings.

A 38-year-old woman from Brampton and a 47-year-old man from Mississauga were both charged in connection with the rally, and investigators say they are looking for other individuals who violated provincial guidelines.

Anyone with additional information is asked to contact investigators at 11 Division at (905) 453-2121, ext. 1133.

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GLENCAIRN GOLF CLUB

Peel PC Caucus pens open letter on restricting non-essential travel

The following is an open letter sent to Peel Weekly News on behalf of the PC Caucus members in Peel Region.

Letters may be edited for grammar and clarity.

All opinions expressed below belong solely to the author(s).

Dear MP Peter Fonseca, MP Gagan Sikand, MP Navdeep Bains, MP Omar Alghabra, MP Iqra Khalid, and MP Sven Spengemann, thank you for your ongoing support and collaboration throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are writing to you on behalf of our constituents in the six Mississauga ridings.

As you know, Ontario is in the midst of a third wave caused largely by variants of concern, that entered our borders earlier this year.

Recently, Ontario confirmed 36 cases of the B.1617 variant first identified in India. These cases

were associated with international travel.

This is extremely concerning for our constituents in Mississauga, many of whom have seen on the news the devastating impacts of this variant in India and other countries.

Ontario has also seen thousands of confirmed cases of the P.1, B.1.1.7 and B.1.351 variants.

Variants of concern now make up approximately 70 per cent of daily new cases in Ontario.

They are more easily transmissible and deadly, and continue to have a devastating impact on our hospitals and Intensive Care Units.

These COVID-19 variants arrived in Ontario through our airports and border crossings. Since last year, our government has been calling for strengthened measures to prevent these deadly variants from entering the province, so we can protect Ontarians.

The people of Mississauga require immediate leadership

from our federal government to prevent this crisis from getting worse.

Earlier this week, your government announced a ban on direct flights from India and Pakistan.

While we welcome this step, it does not address the severity of the crisis we are facing.

We, the six Members of Provincial Parliament representing Mississauga, request our federal counterparts immediately:

1) Close the borders and ban all non-essential travel.

2) Close the loophole that allows travellers to enter at land borders and avoid quarantining at authorized government hotels.

As you know, Mississauga is home to Pearson International Airport, the busiest airport in Canada.

This last week alone, nearly 10,000 foreign national travellers entered through this airport.

In the past week, 22 international flights have landed at Pearson with pos-

sible COVID-19 exposures.

These numbers are staggering and should be a wakeup call that further action is needed.

Additionally, nearly 80,000 people -- not including essential commercial truckers -- have crossed Canada's land borders in the last week alone.

Our government has stepped up and taken action to protect our borders, an area that is a federal responsibility. We were the first jurisdiction in Canada to bring in mandatory COVID-19 airport

testing.

Further, we issued an Emergency Order restricting travel into Ontario through land and water crossings from Manitoba and Quebec.

However, we need immediate support from the federal government to secure our international borders.

The people of Mississauga, many of whom are essential workers, have made sacrifices every day throughout this pandemic.

It is only right that all levels of government do everything

in their power to limit the spread of this deadly virus and protect the health and safety of all citizens.

We urgently ask that your government act, ban all non-essential travel, and close the land border loophole, to prevent this crisis from getting worse.

Sincerely, MPP Kaleed Rasheed, MPP Deepak Anand, MPP Sheraf Sabawy, MPP Nina Tangri, MPP Natalia Kusendova and MPP Rudy Cuzzetto



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Suspect sought in Brampton shooting

22 Division's Criminal Investigation Bureau are asking for the public's help locating a suspect involved in a shooting earlier this month in Brampton.

Police responded to the George and Nelson Street area on Apr. 14, around 2:30 p.m., after receiving a report of shots fired. Upon arriving, officers located evidence of a

shooting, though no victims were located.

A subsequent investigation revealed that two suspects had been seen fleeing from the scene.

Police later arrested 19 year-old Aasiah Williams, of Mississauga, who was charged with several offences, including possession with intent to traffic and possession of a restricted firearm.

The second suspect, 34 year-old Carlton Olivierre, is described as male black, fair complexion, 5'10", 170lbs, thin build, medium length dreadlock style black hair, a black goatee and brown eyes.

Residents with information regarding the case are asked to call police at (905) 453-2121, ext. 2233.

Quartet of thieves nabbed after pharmacy robbery

Investigators from the Central Robbery Bureau have charged four youths in relation to an alleged pharmacy robbery in Brampton.

On Apr. 22, four thieves entered a pharmacy located in the Main Street and Vodden Street area armed with knives, demanding prescription drugs from the employees.

After obtaining an amount of drugs, the suspects fled in a stolen Ford Explorer. There were no physical injuries to any of the victims.

A short distance from the pharmacy, the suspects were involved in a collision with another vehicle. All four suspects fled on foot and were later arrested by uniform offi-

cers and the Canine Unit after a detailed area search. The stolen property from the pharmacy was recovered along with the knives used and other robbery-related property.

Four youths, ranging 14-16 years of age, were arrested in connection with the robbery, and were charged with multiple offences, including possession of stolen property and wearing disguises with intent.

The suspects, who cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act, appeared in Brampton court for a bail hearing on Apr. 23.

Anyone with additional information regarding the case is asked to call police at (905) 453-2121, ext. 3410.



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Port Credit, ON, Canada

Phone Number:

(905) 486-0191

Email Address:

info@zestforliving.ca

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Opinion

In the COVID climate, has India fallen from grace?



Surjit Singh Flora

Column

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has dealt a severe blow to India, making the country desperately in need of life-saving oxygen as cases spiral out of control.

The country is seeking international help for oxygen, beds in the hospital and critical vaccines to combat the disease.

Crematoriums and funeral parlors have also faced a severe influx of grieving families and fallen residents, with no relief in sight, as cases topped 352,991 new active infections on Apr. 26.

Signs of the beginning of the second wave were visible from Apr. 1. What was the reason behind this?

The policies of the people, the govern-

ment, the Planning Commission, the bureaucrats, the Kumbh Mela, Holi, Vaisakhi, the election rallies, Ramadan or the over-satisfied and secure state of mind that the COVID-19 infection is over. All of these factors may in part or wholly influenced the spiralling case numbers.

The face of the country changed in just less than 20 days, as cases have reached consistent new highs. What brought this situation out of control is a matter that needs to be looked into and examined in depth.

For now, the most important issue is to stabilize the ones that can be helped and provide support to the grieving families.

The Indian Supreme Court has tried its best to restore the supply of oxygen in Delhi and other places where it is needed, and the

government has also taken steps to restore it by rail and air. It is seeking the help of the police and even the army.

The Indian Air Force has deployed five types of aircraft and helicopters due to the deteriorating conditions, and has continuously started supplying oxygen and other essential supplies to various parts of the country.

Oxygen tankers are also being delivered to various states as soon as possible. Indian Air Force planes are also bringing in oxygen from abroad, including Singapore.

Many countries have also come forward to help India in its hour of need.

For example, the Tata Group, in collaboration with the German company Linde, has acquired 24 oxygen transport tanks which will be airlifted to India to augment

the oxygen transport capacity. German chancellor Angela Merkel has said her government was preparing to provide emergency assistance to India.

The United States is also working to immediately deploy medications, COVID-19 rapid diagnostic test kits, ventilators, and personal protective equipment to India and seek to provide oxygen supplies.

European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen tweeted that the organization was "pooling resources to respond rapidly to India's request for assistance."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says the U.K. is also considering ways to help India. According to him, India is an important ally, and the help given to it could include ventilators and other essentials for treatment. Ger-

many also promised rapid support. Neighbouring rival Pakistan offered medical equipment and supplies after Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted prayers for a "speedy recovery."

Meanwhile, the Abdul Sattar Idi Foundation, a Pakistani self-help group, has offered to send 50 ambulances and support staff to help India fight the second wave of COVID-19.

China has also extended a helping hand to India in this hour of crisis.

Since the COVID-19 epidemic began last year, India has become the world's largest pharmacy, with the country shipping hydroxychloroquine to the countries that needed twice as much oxygen in the first ten months of the epidemic.

India used to supply vaccines across Africa, Europe and other former Asian

countries. The Indian government even donated 100,000 vaccine shots to Kenya to start its own COVID-19 vaccination strategy earlier this year.

Now when it comes to own country, in this battle, India has fallen from grace.

This is a harsh lesson, for both the government and the people of India. The epidemic is not going away so fast.

A third wave has also arrived in many countries. In such a scenario, we have to make arrangements so that supply chains in the manufacturing, production and distribution sectors can continue unimpeded in the event of widespread infection.

When this pandemic is over, many difficult questions will be asked -- but for now, all residents must together to overcome this deadly virus.

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MISSISSAUGA

Brampton pushes for “fair deal” for auto insurance

Having achieved a “fair deal” for its local hospitals, Brampton is setting its sights on the next deal — auto insurance.

The city said Tuesday that it is calling on the province to expedite the review and reform of auto insurance rates in Brampton and beyond — with an associated campaign to match.

The #FairDealForBrampton campaign seeks to “put a lid on” spiralling auto insurance costs, which are, on average, 123 per cent higher for drivers in the city versus the average driver in the province.

“As families in Brampton, and around Ontario, grapple with financial challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, governments must continue to work together to address the rising costs of auto insurance,” said Mayor Patrick Brown. “Change is long overdue and we must end postal code discrimination in determining insurance rates.”

Drivers continue to see varying auto insurance costs by postal codes across the city, with rates as high as \$3,301, which is more than two times the provincial average.

The city unveiled

several ways for residents to voice their support for the motion, via a petition on the City of Brampton website (brampton.ca) and through social media engagement.

“Brampton drivers have been paying higher automobile insurance rates than the rest of the province just because of postal codes for far too long,” said Wards 9 & 10 regional councillor Gurpreet Dhillon. “It’s time the (province) followed up on its promise to review and reform automobile insurance rates.”

In an Oct. 2020 cover story, Peel Weekly News spoke to a former Brampton MP who stated that the cause of spiralling auto insurance rates lies with the province, not insurance companies.

Former Brampton West MPP Vic Dhillon said last year that even a small per cent reduction would create a massive tax hole in the provincial finances, and that false claims are “just a small tip of the iceberg.”

Moreover, insurance companies are able to claim, and do claim, tax deductions for fraud claims. Dhillon said that the real part of the problem is the provincial

government itself.

“It does not matter which political party forms the government; insurance premium increases remain imminent as the government desperately needs more and more tax revenue,” Dhillon explained.

Dhillon is not the only one who drew attention to the matter of soaring premiums. NDP Auto Insurance Critic Tom Rakocevic made repeated requests last summer for the province to stop premium gouging on Ontario residents.

Ontario has some of the highest auto insurance rates in the country, though this has been tempered in recent months by the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused lower driving rates and relief measures for customers.

“Instead of getting a discount on auto insurance that reflected the decrease in driving and accidents, Ontario drivers got tossed a few bucks or told to downgrade their coverage, and be grateful,” Rakocevic said in July 2020.

Dhillon told Peel Weekly News last year that MPPs, especially those newly elected, do not know the real reason be-

hind the spiking insurance premiums.

Without the proper knowledge, and due to hierarchy pressure, MPPs are unable to resolve it.

Dhillon also said that this is not an issue to be resolved by pointing fingers at the insurance companies because, “The real problem is inside the government.”

Without prior approval of the Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO), insurance companies cannot increase the premiums. More insurance premium means more tax revenue for the government. How much difference does it make?

Insurance premium increase (every year) in Ontario is like an indirect tax increase, said Dhillon. Without the approval of the government, the premium cannot be increased. He also added that federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh failed to help resolve this politicized issue because he did not know what and where the problem was, and the same story is with so many MPPs today.

When asked why he never disclosed this information while he was MPP and member of the Kathleen Wynne government, Dhillon explained that he did not want to lose his job because “(I) had a fam-

ily to take care of.”

Last year, Premier Doug Ford’s office said in an emailed statement to Peel Weekly News that, “Our message to auto insurance companies has been clear — they should provide relief that reflects the serious hardship people are facing as a result of this unprecedented situation.... we’ll be watching to make sure insurance companies step up. Our government will continue to work with regulators to identify new opportunities and monitor how the auto insurance sector is responding to the challenges people are facing.”

— With PWN Files



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BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Nominations are Open

Region boosts workplace vax clinics as rollout continues

by Alex Gregory

Three of Peel's biggest employers have received a "vaccine hotline" from the Region of Peel, as it announced plans to roll out targeted workplace clinics this week.

The region said Monday that the three new clinics, which will support employees of Maple Lodge Farms, Maple Leaf Foods and Amazon, began operation at Mississauga, Brampton and Bolton locations Tuesday, with further clinic openings expected over the next few days.

The sites, some of which have been partially closed due to stringent new regulations initiated by the region, are expected to administer approximately 7,000 shots per day through the next three weeks, in a

bid to clamp down on spiralling case counts in hotspots.

The new clinics will provide a big boost to mobile offerings in the region as it continues its mass vaccination plan, said Peel's medical officer of health, Dr. Lawrence Loh.

"By reaching out directly to residents and workplaces in hotspots, we can continue to address transmission in our community, particularly those who cannot work from home," Loh said Monday.

Mobile clinics for Amazon, which also saw partial closures this weekend at its distribution centres in Bolton and Brampton, will begin vacci-

nations on May 5.

Several community clinics, pharmacies, pop-up clinics and hospital clinics are already open for vaccinations, along with sites opening at places of worship.

On Tuesday, the region announced that the Brampton Islamic Centre (6 Lowry Drive in Brampton (and the MAC Islamic Community Centre (2550 Dunwin Drive, in Mississauga) would offer a pop-up vaccine clinic, running through May 11, with a focus on vaccinating members of the Muslim community.

Bookings for community clinics can be made at the Peel Region website (peelregion.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/book-appointment).

O'Toole and Singh back support for COVID relief in India

More must be done to support India during a record-breaking COVID-19 epidemic that has cost hundreds of thousands of lives, federal party leaders said Monday.

Conservative leader Erin O'Toole said this week that he will support federal motions that would send personal protective equipment (PPE) to India as it battles spiralling case counts and a shortage of oxygen and other critical medical supplies.

"We want to be able to help our friends in India if we can and provide them with ventilators and other necessary equipment," O'Toole said Monday. "We should help them as much as we can."

Federal NDP leader Jagmeet Singh echoed

O'Toole's comments, noting that it was the country's "responsibility" to provide as much support for struggling cities and regions as it could.

"This is a global epidemic, and it has definitely proved the extent to which we are connected to each other," said Singh. "If there is an outbreak in any part of the world, it will affect all of us. We have seen, felt and seen the effects of the epidemic. We must consider ourselves global citizens."

The death toll from COVID-19 surpassed 195,000 cases earlier this week, with more than 360,000 new confirmed cases announced in the country Wednesday morning.

The Indian Supreme Court

has tried worked restore the supply of oxygen in Delhi and other critical hotspots where it is needed, but public statements from government representatives indicate that its air and land transportation divisions are being stretched thin as it works to supply oxygen and other essential supplies to various parts of the country.

Other countries, including the U.S., U.K. and France, have pledged to send critical supplies and PPE to help with critical relief efforts and recovery.

In a statement Friday, federal Procurement Minister Anita Anand said Ottawa is in touch with India's High Commissioner to decide on what supplies are needed most urgently.

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Province and feds spar over paid sick leave package

by Alex Gregory and Surjit Singh Flora

A bridge too far, a proposal too short?

The Ford government and federal branch sparred earlier this week over a potential paid sick leave package for workers in Peel and abroad, after weeks of uncertainty and statements by the Premier over support.

The province announced Wednesday evening that it would be bringing legislation forward to double payments made through the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) program, along with up to

three paid sick days per employee.

Labour Minister Monte McNaughton will unveil the legislation Thursday morning, which would require employers to provide employees with up to \$200 of pay for up to three days if they are missing work because of COVID-19.

The program will be retroactive to Apr. 19, 2021 and effective until Sep. 25, the date the CRSB will expire.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a news conference Tuesday afternoon that employers must be

involved in such decisions.

“Provinces need to look at the way to deliver it simply, directly through employers which the federal government can't do,” Trudeau said.

On the same day, McNaughton said such a deal with the feds would only be possible if Ottawa handled the rollout, with the province footing the bill.

In a letter to federal Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, provincial Finance Minister Peter Bethlenfalvy said the province was ready to deliver on its promise and

would pay employees immediately.

In response to the letter, Freeland's office responded in a statement that “when the (province) is ready to implement Sick Leave in businesses that are regulated, as we have done at the federal level, we

will help.”

To some, including NDP leader Andrea Horwath, the measures still aren't enough.

“This action is coming far too late. Too late to stop COVID-19 from getting out of control. Too late for workers who have already gotten sick,” said

Horwath. “Three sick days is not enough.”

A paid Sick Days program was introduced by the former provincial Liberal government when it came to power in 2018, but was scrapped by the Ford government after they took office.



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Field-testing the 2021 “ESG” budget in Peel Region

by Catherine Soplet

“What if money really does grow on trees?”

This is not a rhetorical question, nor a dismissive one, to cast aspersions upon the Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland’s federal 2021 feminist ESG budget.

Entitled “A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience,” Budget 2021 presents the federal’s plan to finish the fight against COVID-19 — and ensure a resilient economic recovery that creates jobs and growth for Canadians.

Money indeed may need to grow on trees.

For 2021-22, the federal budget records a whopping \$155 billion deficit. The budget’s five key themes are based on triple bottom line values: People – Prosperity – Planet, plus the Black Swan hazard of COVID-19.

- Jobs Creation
- Small Businesses and Growth
- Women and Early Learning and Child Care:
- Climate Action and a Green Economy
- Young Canadians

Specific COVID-related budgets put \$2.2 billion into Canada’s bio-manufacturing and life-sciences sector to rebuild capacity in bio-manufacturing, vaccine development and production.

Since Jan. 2021, a field test designed to deliver on themes in The Recovery Plan budget is in the works for the non-profit sector in Peel Region.

One objective will be to get an answer as to how much money can be grown on trees, and under what circumstances.

Based on a fall

2020 climate action pilot project by ACER – the Association for Canadian Educational Resources, The NabrHubs Project model inclusively engages and upskills people of all ages and backgrounds to increase planting and monitoring of trees.

The money growth factors in by collecting climate change data that quantifies carbon sequester, carbon dioxide capture and thus offsets

line - People, Prosperity and Planet - describes the emergent industry standard for corporate ESG reporting on Environmental, social and Governance values – and also high-growth investments in ESG capital markets.

According to a new report by Jon Hale, head of sustainability research at the firm Morningstar, ESG funds took in \$51 billion of net inflows last year, double the

(SDGs) in 2030.

Championed by people such as former Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney, who in 2020 was appointed Vice Chair of Brookfield Asset Management and Head of ESG and Impact Fund Investing.

Via their ESG portfolio, investors can utilize the power of capital to alter unsustainable corporate behavior through their business plans, and help solve the world’s

got a nod from the United Nations for their respective commitments to meet the SDG’s.

Peel Region was recognized as a Regional Centre for Excellence in Sustainability, as it grapples with energy use and emissions as the second-largest logistics and manufacturing hub in North America. Its strategy SDG ties to local education systems initiatives.

Sheridan College

tion arising from barrier-free access to education and reduced inequalities.

Which brings us back to The NabrHubs Project entry into Sheridan College Open Innovation Challenge, and its intent to grow money on trees:

“Fun for all ages, planting local tree labs propels hands-on STEM into climate action. A fall 2020 equity pilot engaging BIPOC residents in low income areas grew both future shade and student success.”

Ahead of market engagement that gets captured in The 2021 Recovery Budget, making progress on SDG’s and ESG’s through climate action efforts is paramount.

And primed. The ACER pilot project is replicating its climate action proof-of-concept with April announcements for Canada Summer Jobs hires, Resilient Community Fund and Canadian Healthy Community Initiative awards.

In 2012, ahead of her political career, Chrystia Freeland crafted her “path leading to middle class prosperity” in her ground breaking book *Plutocrats: The Rise of the New Global Super-Rich and the Fall of Everyone Else*.

Based on experience of US Midwest farming communities, Freeland attributed middle-class prosperity to public education, entrepreneurship, and business success that aligns with public good.

Sustainable development goals. Innovation. ESG investments. Welcome to Peel, the birthplace of Canada’s public education.



to green house gas emissions (GHG’s), all of which have a market value.

The NabrHubs Project model is guided by United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals, as they have been adopted for use in Peel Region, and is an entry into Sheridan College Open Innovation Challenge: Reimagining Learning and Education in Our Communities. More on this below.

The triple bottom

total for 2019 and almost 10 times more than in 2018.

ESG values which were established in Jan. 2017 by the International Business Council (IBC) to encompass emerging corporate reporting.

The new standard set by the IBC received commitment from more than 140 CEOs to align their corporate values and strategies with the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals

most agonizing problems, such as climate change.

To evaluate ESG, the IBC has developed 21 core metrics and 34 additional measures, spanning four pillars: people, planet, prosperity, principles of governance addressing risk, ethical behaviour and shareholder rights.

Ahead of the federal budget, in Feb. 2021 Peel Regional Council and Sheridan College each

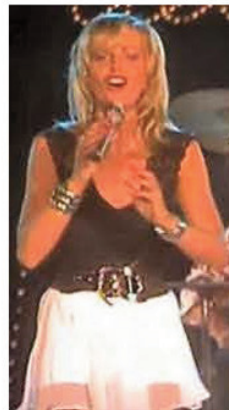
was the first post-secondary institution in Ontario to commit to and sign the UN SDG accord.

Sheridan College, through its Mission Zero framework for institution-wide sustainability initiatives, is reaching targets ahead of timelines.

In announcing the Open Innovation Challenge, Sheridan College extends commitment beyond environmental SDG’s to conjoin growth and innova-

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BUSINESS

Canadian care providers speak up on long-term care reform

National standards and increased funding are required for long-term care homes to prevent further outbreaks during the COVID-19 pandemic, a Mississauga-based health authority said earlier this week.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), in partnership

with the Canadian Society for Long-Term Care Medicine (CSLTCM), issued a joint statement on the role of family physicians in long-term care (LTC) Monday, saying that more funding is needed to boost the role of family physicians in such spaces and improve the LTC system.

"We want to recognize family physicians for their ongoing important work in LTC as they continue to navigate the turbulent waters brought to the surface by the COVID-19 pandemic," said CFPC executive director and CEO Francine Lemire. "Our position highlights several key

changes that would help stabilize LTC and better position family doctors to help facilitate clinical policies and procedures within LTC settings to improve patient-centred care."

While the federal government's recent budget has stipulated \$3 billion to support LTC homes over

the next five years, more needs to be done to ensure high-quality care in LTC homes, both organizations said, noting that they are working together to advocate for system-wide improvements to ensure comprehensive national standards are implemented.

Their position calls for several supports to provide better quality of care and improve the LTC system in Canada, including the implementation of national standards for patient care; enhancing funding for staffing; supporting family physician leadership in the medical director role; and integrating effective and cohesive communications to support conti-

nity of care that is patient-centred.

Urgent changes have been identified that are needed to improve the system, said CSLTCM president Patrick Quail.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has catapulted the LTC sector out of the shadows into the harsh light of day. It has been a devastating year," said Quail.

"While we acknowledge the great and often heroic work undertaken in our homes day to day, family physicians have long advocated the need for major system change... (our position) advances this advocacy effort by identifying four key opportunities for meaningful improvements in resident care."



A group of seniors pose after receiving their COVID-19 vaccinations earlier this year in a Peel LTC home. (Photo Courtesy of Region of Peel)

Brampton nets architectural award for urban planning

The City of Brampton has picked up another feather in its cap, as it was recognized earlier this month for excellence in urban design planning.

The city was recognized with a national award from the Canadian Society of Architects (CSLA) for its "Uptown Brampton Transit-Oriented Communities Toolkit" out of a pool of more

than 70 applicants, it was revealed this week.

Brampton's Urban Design team partnered with the Toronto School of Cities' and the Urban Land Institute Toronto District Council in developing the project.

The "Uptown Brampton Transit-Oriented Communities Toolkit" explores a collaborative city-building model that supports better

alignment between public sector, private sector, non-profit and local communities.

"We are committed to leading the way on smart planning for vibrant, healthy and complete communities," Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown said earlier this week. "I applaud our Urban Design team for continuing to develop plans for 20-minute walk-

able communities and showing the way on how we unlock the potential of uptown Brampton."

The Uptown model unlocks the value of a "26-hour City", where 20-minute walkable communities eliminate the high cost of commuting and car-ownership — providing "extra hours" every day improving quality of life and productivity.

The model also supports the cre-

ation of high-quality jobs and employment, and helps move the city towards a carbon-neutral future.

Fourteen projects received a national award from CSLA, during the awards ceremony held earlier this month.

Winners were selected by a national jury of landscape architects, with a total of 72 submissions being received.

Wards 3 & 4 regional councillor Martin Medeiros said that if the COVID-19 pandemic has taught the city one thing, it is that they must be ready to adapt to changing behaviours.

"Transforming Uptown into a transit-oriented community makes perfect sense for our residents, businesses and local stakeholders," Medeiros said in a statement.

Peel vaccine eligibility expands for residents 45 and over

Residents over the age of 45 in select areas of Peel can now book an appointment to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, the Region of Peel said this week.

The announcement, which was made in the wake of a like-minded statement by the province of Ontario, will expand vaccine eligibility for all residents over the age of 45 in Peel Region who are located in “hotspots” facing elevated levels of COVID-19 cases.

As part of the expanded eli-

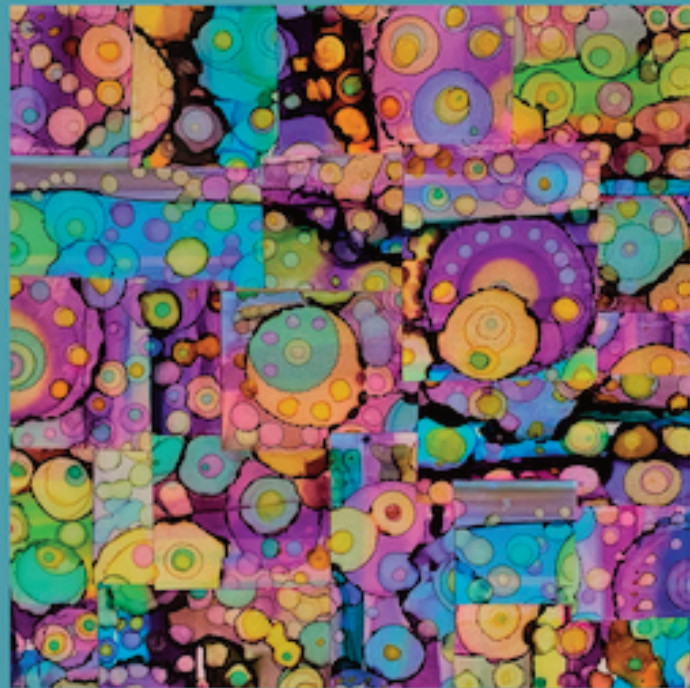
gibility, same day appointments will be available at most clinics in the region, including participating pharmacies.

Residents living in the L4T, L4W, L4X, L4Z, L5A, L5B, L5C, L5K, L5L, L5M, L5N, L5R, L5V, L5W, L6P, L6R, L6S, L6T, L6V, L6W, L6X, L6Y, L6Z, L7A or L7C postal codes who are over the age of 45 will be able to book an appointment, via peelregion.ca /COVID19vaccine or by calling (1-833) 943-3900.



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please visit our online art show at:
www.headwatersarts.com

Creatives invited to chart climate change for new project

Calling all photographers and storytellers! Are you resilient?

The City of Mississauga announced this week that it will launch the "We Are Resilient" project, a new initiative that aims to connect individuals through stories and experiences about climate change.

The project will help reveal the local and personal impacts of a changing climate through photography and stories, and how sharing personal reflections can help to shape the community's collective perspective on climate action.

Inspired by the City's Climate Change Action Plan, the contest aims to connect and share the energy, passion and creativity expressed by our community to create a more resilient future for Mississauga. Creative residents can submit their photos and stories portraying your experience with changing climate in Mississauga.

Participants will be entered into a contest to win prizes and be featured in an upcoming exhibition in summer 2022.

For more information, visit the project website at mississauga.ca/resilient.

CVC picks up "green" nod

On Apr. 19, Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) was named one of Canada's Greenest Employer (2021) for the second year in a row.

CVC was recognized for its many green initiatives, including electric vehicle charging stations, organic composting, an employee uniform recycling and re-use program, and the TerraCycle collection program for capturing additional recyclables such as pens and pencils.

CVC's adminis-

tration office includes a LEED Gold-certified building, a permeable parking lot that allows rainwater to filter into the ground, and the organization will be installing an innovative "smart blue roof" to manage stormwater onsite.

Each year, staff volunteers participate in tree plantings, garbage clean-ups and the removal of invasive garlic mustard plants.

In total, employees have removed 3,175 kilograms of garlic mustard

since 2012.

"This award reflects the team's passion and commitment to making a difference at our workplace and in the local environment," said CVC chief administrative officer Deborah Martin-Downs earlier this week.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CVC continued its commitment of giving back to the community by supporting the Eden Food Bank, Ontario SPCA and Humane Society, Peel Children's Aid Society and

many other charitable organizations," said Martin-Downs.

In a statement, CVC said it continues to support municipalities and neighbours with vital services like flood forecasting and warning, and greening programs to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Canada's Greenest Employers is an editorial competition that recognizes employers that lead the nation in creating a culture of environmental awareness.



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Construction begins as Mississauga pushes capital projects

A busy construction season is set to commence this summer, as the City of Mississauga announced plans late last week to accelerate its rollout of capital projects with a \$76 million-dollar boost.

The city said last week that it is continuing to move on a number of projects within its Roads and Stormwater Capital Programs, which include investments into

major transportation and stormwater infrastructure projects.

“As our city continues to grow and mature, we need to ensure that our infrastructure is kept in good repair through regular maintenance so that we can move people safely through our city,” said Mayor Bonnie Crombie in an online video posted last week.

“As we continue to navigate COVID-19, it is so

important that residents are able to get to their destinations safely... this essential work that will make Mississauga safer and help boost the city’s economy.”

Construction projects within the City’s Roads and Stormwater Capital Programs involve repair and maintenance of critical infrastructure that helps keep all road users moving safely and manage stormwater to reduce the

risk of flooding.

This includes road resurfacing, sidewalk and multi-use trail construction, bridge repairs, creek and erosion control work and construction of new stormwater management facilities.

Currently, construction projects are deemed essential under provincial regulations, and 11 capital projects are planned to commence this year, with a further 11 projects continuing from last year.

Despite the limitations and delays caused by the pandemic, the city has a very busy construction season planned for this year, said the city’s transportation and works commissioner, Geoff Wright, Commissioner, Transportation and Works.

“While we continue to do the essential work that makes travelling safer and easier for all road users, we do so with the health and safety of residents, workers and contractors as a top priority,” Wright

said in a statement. “We will continue to work closely with our contractors to ensure that the Occupational Health and Safety Act is upheld and that all on-site best practices are followed as recommended by public health officials.”

Residents are encouraged to use the city’s construction map to see where projects are currently underway, which can be accessed at mississauga.ca/projects-and-strategies/current-construction-projects.

Using the map, residents can view the types of projects that are happening in the city and who to contact if they have any questions related to the project.

The city is also introducing a “Field Ambassador” program this year to better communicate questions from construction sites to the public and local businesses, a city representative said Thursday.

Following on from the launch of a Ray Control Subsidy Pilot Pro-

gram launched last year in response to community feedback in the Applewood Heights area, a Construction Pest Control Program will also launch during the 2021 construction season to address concerns raised by residents in the past about rat sightings near construction sites.

Residents and commuters can expect to see major construction happening along the Hurontario corridor this year, between the Port Credit GO Station and Highway 407, as well as significant progress being made on Metrolinx’s Hurontario Light Rail Transit (HuLRT) Project. It’s expected that most of the Hurontario corridor will be under construction by the fall. The line is expected to be completed by late 2024.

As construction gets underway, residents can use the construction map to plan alternate routes to avoid traffic.

Trillium Health Partners Foundation

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The Spirit of Community Exchange and Safe Social Camaraderie

by Christina Dore-Scaini, Special

Community Exchange is the spirit and driving force behind the new free-cycle group South Mississauga Free Exchange (SMFX).

If you've ever had something that you wanted to get rid of, but couldn't bear to send it to the landfill, and it wasn't valuable enough to sell – or you didn't want to have a garage sale attracting strangers to come barter you into submission?

How about giving it to a grateful neighbor in your extended local community? On another day, you might see something posted you might like to have, or ask for something that you are in search of (ISO) and one of your neighbors

comes to the rescue!

How great is that?

SMFX, founded at the end of July, 2020, is one of the hottest, fastest growing Face Book groups in South Mississauga.

The group boundaries include the East/West borders of Mississauga, from the Lake up to Dundas Street.

There are even a few members who join from outside the boundaries and participate by either delivering their items or arranging a meet up spot within the boundaries.

This group promotes everything Free in South Mississauga, but it is not to be mistaken as a charity. It's

about neighbors exchanging items with other neighbors with a constant balanced flow of give-and-take.

It is a great vehicle to keep items we no longer need out of the landfills!

The group also promotes free Community Events, occasionally supporting local charities such as The Compass Food Bank, sharing volunteer opportunities, finding temporary care or new homes for pets, and promoting local businesses (for free) during these challenging times, by offering promotional giveaways to the group.

Founded by Christine Dore-Scaini, a local resident for over 25 years, she is

especially proud of the positive interactions between the members – sharing a laugh, finding unique ways to give their special items and lending a hand when ever needed.

Many friendships have developed as they learn more of each other with each and every post.

And now, a monthly newsletter has been introduced, featuring an active member every month, and noting the top giveaways in the group, as well as, sharing upcoming local and on-line events and any other tidbits of general interest.

SMFX is not the only free cycle group in the area

as there are a number of groups that all do tremendous work. It's truly a labor of love for the community and it takes the generous nature of many volunteers to make sure that it remains available for all to appreciate and enjoy.

Why don't you give it a try. Once you get the hang of the process,

it's a very enjoyable experience. Many members purposefully go through their homes to find the "next thing" to give. Everyday brings new surprises and treasures to find.

For more information, visit SMFX at facebook.com/groups/southmississaugafreeexchange.



SMFX IS THE PLACE TO BE ...WHERE EVERYTHING IS FREE

Discover a new way to declutter your life and make a neighbor happy! A great way to have fun and interact with your neighbourhood - warning though - it can become addictive!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/southmississaugafreeexchange/>

SPORTS

Mississauga Marathon once again virtual for 2021

It's one small step and one giant run — virtually — as runners across the province and beyond can compete online for the best times during the 2021 Mississauga Marathon, which runs from May 1 - 31.

As COVID-19 provincial restrictions are still being observed through the month, this year's marathon will once again be held as a virtual event, following the advice of Peel Public Health, Peel Regional Police and the City of Mississauga.

Those who were registered for the 2020 Mississauga Marathon had their registration deferred to this year's event, which includes a selection of scenic — and self-guided runs that can be taken

alone, as the organization changed tactics due to ongoing restrictions.

The Marathon, held on the first weekend of May each year, has been a staple of the spring running calendar since its inception in 2003. The race typically showcases the gorgeous waterfront trails, iconic Port Credit Lighthouse, and neighborhoods from Square One to Lakefront Promenade Park.

Instead of running the set course on race day alongside thousands of other runners, the 2021 Virtual Mississauga Marathon runners will have the chance to run or walk their preferred distance on their own, safely, and at a distance from others, and upload their time to the Mississauga

Marathon leader-board.

For many virtual runners, this freedom is welcomed, as runners can complete their event at home on the treadmill or outside around their neighborhood. Runners can even try their hand at one of their favourite Mississauga Marathon race routes (while

abiding by all health and traffic guidelines) in the 2K, 5K, 10K, Half Marathon, or Full Marathon.

Since runners won't be able to experience the same race day festivities as are typical each spring at the Mississauga Marathon, organizers have put together a race kit which includes the official 2021

Mississauga Marathon medal, a race bib and finisher's certificate, coupons, prize draws, and more.

Organizers told Peel Weekly News earlier this year that Puma has also provided a high-performance t-shirt as part of each participant's race kit.

Although thousands of runners

won't pack the start lines this spring for the annual Mississauga Marathon, the virtual experience promises to be just as special for experienced and new runners alike.

For more information and to register, visit the race website at mississaugamarathon.com.



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Stormwater Master Plan

mississauga.ca/stormwater-master-plan

LIFESTYLE / AROUND TOWN

Valleywood Library unveils plans for new Makerspace

Caledon Public Library unveiled plans earlier this week regarding the modernizing of a local branch — and a place for residents young and old to hone their creative skills.

The library system announced a new project Monday to reimagine the Margaret Dunn Valleywood Branch, with a funding boost from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP), along with the Town of Caledon.

The modernized branch will house a maker space and recording studio as well as spaces for

working, learning and meeting, as part of a funding boost delivered to multiple projects within the area through the federal funding streams.

Going forward, the Valleywood location will focus on supporting the new services with special collections for local businesses and entrepreneurs and an emphasis on technology, making, and creativity, while continuing to act as a pickup and return location for all CPL materials, said its chief librarian, Colleen Lipp.

“We are excited that these new services will be de-

livered in the heart of Valleywood and expect that neighborhood residents will take full advantage of all that will be available on their doorstep,” said Lipp. “We also see this branch as a destination for all of Caledon.”

Equipped with resources such as computers, 3-D printers, audio and video capture and editing tools, and traditional arts and crafts supplies, Makerspaces provide a place where people create, invent, learn together, and build skills for life. Libraries around the world have been converted into

learning and innovation hubs for co-creation.

The branch will host many maker, technology and craft workshops facilitated by both CPL staff and experts from the community.

Design work will begin this summer, with construction anticipated to begin by early 2022.

Construction will require that the branch will be closed temporarily, CPL said Monday. Branch staff will be reassigned to serve patrons at other branch locations until such time that the Valleywood location will reopen.



Brampton celebrates youth during weeklong festivities

by Alex Gregory

National Youth Week is going virtual this year.

The City of Brampton announced Tuesday that a selection of activities geared towards youths in the local commu-

nity will be hosted online next week, running from May 1 - 7 online.

Nearly 40 online events will be held to celebrate the role of youths in the community, kicking off with a

launch event on May 1 with a selection of speakers who will delve into major topics such as leadership, civic engagement, entrepreneurship and much more.

The events,

hosted in tandem with National Youth Week activities across the country, aims to bring training and professional development programs to youths across the city from the

comfort of their own home, say City staff.

“Brampton’s young people are our leaders of tomorrow, and we are dedicated to creating events and opportunities that will help them succeed,” said Wards 1 & 5 regional councillor Rowena Santos.

The selection of events on tap for this year including workout classes; an online cooking class with Chef Rick Matharu, a past winner of the Food Network Canada’s Recipe to Riches; a female-focused Sports Leadership Conference on May 3; an Instagram Live Chat with Mayor

Patrick Brown and members of city council; a Virtual Dance on May 7 and much more.

Participants who attend featured events will also receive a selection of free items, including a coupon code for a free medium one-topping Domino’s pizza, and the chance to win several prizes.

Registration is required for each event.

For more information or to register for the event, visit the City of Brampton website at brampton.ca/EN/residents/Recreation/Pages/Announcement-National-Youth-Week.aspx.



National Canadian Film Day emphasizes homegrown film talent

by Joseph A. Monachino

"It just doesn't matter!" – "Meatballs," 1979

National Canadian Film Day took place on Apr. 21 — an annual event that focuses on homegrown film talent in our country, hosted over the course of a single day.

This is always a significant event because Canadian films need a forum to display filmmakers that work and produce films and TV shows in Canada.

I watched the 1979 movie "Meatballs," that was directed by Ivan Reitman and stars Bill Murray, Kate Lynch and Jack Blum as the nerdy character "Spaz". A Q & A session took place at after the screening of the movie.

The main organizer of the Oakville Film Festival, Wendy Donnan, introduced the Q & A

session. She graciously thanked Indigenous people for their contribution to the country's film industry and culture as a special tribute.

TV personality, and Breakfast Television host Jennifer Valentyne hosted the Q & A session, which featured Ivan Reitman, Jack Blum, and Kate Lynch.

She started by thanking the sponsors of the event, which included Telefilm Canada, Netflix, and the CBC amongst others, which have helped support struggling artists during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Lynch has made an impressive contribution to TV shows and films. She has appeared in over 65 films and TV shows, and even appeared as an actress in productions of the Shaw Festival. She considers herself "a champion of Canadian film."

Reitman has over 75 films to his credit. "Meatballs" was the first movie he directed. "Animal House" (1978) was a movie he co-produced to great commercial and critical acclaim.

Summer camps were taking place in Halliburton, where filming of "Meatballs" took place starting in Aug. 1979.

Reitman pointed out during the Q & A that camp reflected the "Spirit of kids in big groups and a loving atmosphere."

Blum, who played "Spaz" in the movie, said that "shooting the movie, itself, felt like summer camp."

Ironically, he was assisting in the casting of "Meatballs" and ended up reading for the part of "Spaz".

He gave the character a nerdy image by putting masking tape on the frame of the glasses he was wearing.

Reitman pointed out that he became aware of Bill Murray by seeing, and meeting him, on a National Lampoon Broadway show.

He said one reason the movie has enduring appeal is because of the cordial relationship of Murray's and Chris Makepeace's characters. Lynch feels that the movie still "has lots of heart."

Blum pointed out that, even though there was a script, "nobody knew what was going to happen." Therefore, that spontaneous aspect gave the movie its enduring appeal.

Even though National Canadian Film Day took place on April 21, you can

still see interviews and films on their website, along with a host of extra material.

Visit canadian-filmday.ca to find plenty of content, including films and Q & A sessions.

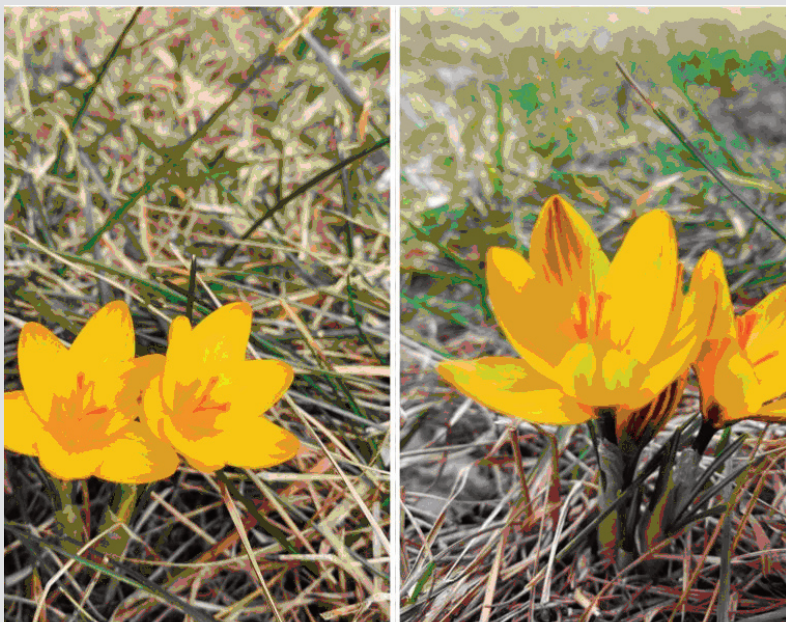
Hopefully, next year, it will be an in-person event after the COVID-19 crisis perhaps comes to an end. Let's pray that it does.

For more information on Focus on Film, email me at filmfocuspeel@gmail.com.



Peel Weekly News Poetry Corner - Quiet Blooms in Spring

by Yiren



Early spring is like a roller coaster — warmth and coldness occur always out of your expectation. Yesterday, snow kernels hit on the face with the help of cold wind. Today, I can go out for a walk with only a shirt and a jacket. And, in the warmth, some people even came out in their summer clothes.

No matter what, the snow that had been shoveled and piled on the lawn are completely gone now. The grass is half withered and half green, although it's not newborn spring green yet. However, I have new blooms to cast my eyes on! Haha!

Surprise came from edge of lawn: When I was stepped out of the door in the morning, I noticed a few flower buds. And when I went out to see them in the afternoon, they were already blossom! Wow, beautiful!

Even tulips, which are famous for their spring blooms, showed only tips of their leaves in the flower bed. Ah, after a long, grey winter, I am thirsty for the light of spring. These small, tender flowers inspire me tremendously.

Flowers bloom quietly. Spring comes quietly. But I want to sing loudly.

Behind the Scenes... Easels are Ready and Packing

by E.C. Munson

This year, two artist members of Headwaters Arts are getting ready for the 60th annual Toronto Outdoor Art Fair (TOAF).

Sherry Park of Brampton and Eunah Cho of Thornhill just received their acceptance notices into this prestigious exhibition.

As with last year's arrangements, to accommodate public health safety concerns, this will be a virtual event held from July 2 – 11.

Park and Cho will be two of the 360 artists in this year's event, with anticipated draw of over 130,000 art lovers and collectors who spend collectively over two million dollars on buying art!

Known for launching the careers of students and emerging artists, TOAF also provides for the discovery of mid-career artists and wider recognition of established artists.

The application process starts months in advance with boot camps on how to make a successful presentation submission on their website. Feedback Fridays, a 15 minute consult, are offered before you actually press SEND on the whole package.

Critical feedback is given by possible adjudicators on past entries to clarify the criteria for earning points. And it's all about the points, from making the waiting list to being accepted or finally rejected.

This year, TOAF had over 830 submissions, which rivalled the highest numbers to date from 2013.

That is stiff competition and something for which both Park and Cho are deserving of our heartiest congratu-

lations.

With her studio at the Alton Mill Arts Centre, Park regularly heads north several times a week. From commission work for portraits to preparing for solo shows or entering competitions, she maintains a steady pace of studio work.

During warmer weather her practice includes heading out for plein air excursions.

She commented that her exciting six-week artist's residency in the fall of 2019 at the Cape Breton Highlands Park in Nova Scotia,

This piece won the Mary Pratt Award for \$1K in the Society of Canadian Artists' Annual International Juried Show. She also entered it in the American Portrait Society's annual international competition.

Likewise, her Portrait of an Artist has been making the rounds, starting with its acceptance into the Headwaters Arts 2020 fall Artful Revival Festival Exhibition. It won first prize in the Color and Form Society's Two X Two 2021 show.

A Day In The Life

theme is for her portraiture.

These days, as with many artists, Park is preparing for multiple events; a proposal show in August at the Headwaters Arts Gallery in Alton, a number of upcoming juried exhibitions, and now for the TOAF. The pressure is on and her work schedule rigorous. You can follow her progress on IG @sherryparkart and visit her website at www.sherrypark.ca.

Having lived in Canada for 18 years now, Eunah Cho, a professor of art in Korea, is still im-

involved teaching art weekly at the Korea Daily Newspaper Centre and from her home studio.

Now, through Zoom, she discusses art as part of art therapy, volunteering with Korean elders and the physically disabled.

She maintains a regular weekly schedule of work in her studio, breaking from this on weekends.

Two pieces from her Timeless series are in the current Headwaters Arts Gallery show, Re-Launch 2021. From her artist's state-

“... explores the expressive possibilities of mixed media. ... the inseparable relation between content and form.”

We can expect to see work from Cho's Dawn series at TOAF. Her poignant message about this reminds us how special it is to be invited into an artist's world.

You may view more work from her at www.eunahart.com and on Instagram @eunahart.

“...the pandemic situation was an opportunity to think about the future. She believes that the passing of this situation will bring a new beginning for all, something she wanted to express in her art. Like a new dawn that breaks the dark, her new series is called 'Dawn' to capture the hope of the coming better days.”

TOAF has impressive guiding beliefs about art, who makes it, the contribution it makes to the economy and to our communities, and how people can access it.

And in preparation for the following season and with their commitment to professional development of artists, this fall they will offer critiques of submission packages to those who were unsuccessful for the 2021 event.

Perseverance is important, so I will be booking one of those appointments. After all, Sherry Park first applied to TOAF as a student at OCAD some thirty years ago and Eunah Cho continues to explore possibilities for solo shows outside of Toronto.

So, it's back to the drawing board for me and living in hope.

“Dawn”, an acrylic piece submitted by Alton artist Eunah Cho. (Submitted)



continues to inform all of her work.

“Now I understand more, I used to do plein air on and off - it takes three to four hours. Since my Cape Breton experience, I've more sense of the composition, the tone, the colour. I've studied the reference photographs and I know what works.”

Park's 2020 year was a strong one for her with her portraits. She flew over to London, England, in Feb. 2020, to deliver Marie Kearns, which made it to the second round of judging in the BP British Portrait Competition.

of Serge Espinal is currently hanging in Visual Art Mississauga's 43rd Annual Juried Show at the Art Gallery of Mississauga and available for virtual viewing.

When noting down the various shows for some of these pieces, Park laughed ... “These ladies get around...” referring to Marie Kearns and Portrait of an Artist.

It was three decades ago that she first applied to TOAF as a student at OCAD – and she got in then, too! So her first time at the event was with her figure drawing and now in 2021 her

mersed in a world of art.

With several major bodies of work to her credit and having exhibited in Seoul, New York, Toronto, and 20 other international cities in the past 35 years, her work is in prestigious private and corporate collections worldwide.

Her daughter, Sarah Kim, has always regarded her mother as a hard worker, “a hustler” who could keep her eyes on the main goal and strive for it while juggling many projects.

Cho's work in the Korean community before the pandemic

ment for this show, we learn that Cho thinks deeply about her work, our human condition, and the unusual challenges we are facing. “Amidst the current age of uncertainty and the struggle of emptiness, what is needed is the pursuit of something eternal.”

Other major bodies of work include, Abyss, Meditation, Dawn, and Dreaming Box. Her

focus as an artist is on abstract painting, working with a variety of mediums, such as acrylic, coloured pigment, Hanji paper, and other mediums. Cho

National Volunteer Week - The Value of One, The Power of Many

by Ron Cunningham, Special

Volunteerism is the practice of providing time and skills for the benefit of impacting the community.

Volunteering helps to create a more just and equitable society. In recent times, we see people standing up to systemic racism, helping the vulnerable in society as we face COVID-19, and sharing insights on a more just and equitable society.

However, as we struggle to deal with the standards of physical distancing, wearing masks, and limiting contact with those outside the household, not-for-profit or-

ganization has seen a reduction in volunteer service.

Organizations are suspending, postponing or cancelling programs, services and activities. In-person volunteering is cancelled or reduced by others.

Still, others have no option but to transition to virtual delivery, while others had to develop new programs and services to meet community needs.

With these new choices comes a shift in volunteering roles and requirements. This pandemic makes it hard to find time to plan, recruit, and train volunteers.

There is also the difficulty of accessing technology for volunteers in virtual roles. Difficulty in providing training and supports for volunteers to work remotely. Difficulty adapting and delivering volunteer orientation and training.

Organizations further struggle to develop strategies and structures to determine what they need and how a volunteer can best contribute to advance their mission.

However, despite these difficulties, we are reminded as we celebrate National Volunteer Week that volun-

teering is an inspiring act of kindness and create a feeling of deep satisfaction when we work together towards a common purpose.

We have seen over the years the power of people working together and how it brings about monumental changes in society.

We should not be overcome by the distractions that we face currently, but brace against the COVID-19 pandemic and its challenges to assist those in need.

COVID-19 has fostered some harmful effects, but it has also set a tone for re-imagining the future.

Therefore, let us equip ourselves by modifying volunteer roles, garner new skill sets, engage staff to support volunteers, and adopt more technology to upend the impacts of COVID-19.

Further, we have experienced the value of compassion and the power of many that enabled us to thrive together.

Consequently, in the spirit of the theme of National Volunteer Week 2021: The Value of One, The Power of Many, let us continue to work to improve the lives of others in our society.

Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development (CACD) acknowledges the compassion that each one has shown one another, and we recognize the power of people coming together and working for a common good.

We salute and applaud you and wish to recognize you (volunteers) for your support all over the GTA.

Thank you for your service!

—
Ron Cunningham is the executive director of Citizens for the Advancement of Community Development.

Shouting Inside the Silence

Shout

Shout out loud

The silence only feeds the demons

Hungry for solitude

Reach out from inside

Where the brokenness

Tears you to pieces

Your sparkle

Snuffed out in the darkness

Put a spotlight on the pain

That only speaks the language of lies

Talking the conversation of fear

Let the light cleanse

Away the debris of pity

Open the gate

Let your lost voice

Get found

On the rocky path to wholeness

Talking you to the way home

Back to your self

Back to your life

No matter how

Rocky the path

It leads to

Wholeness

Listen to your voice

Shouting to be heard

Shouting to connect

You back to

Your story

This is where the

Restorative conversation begins

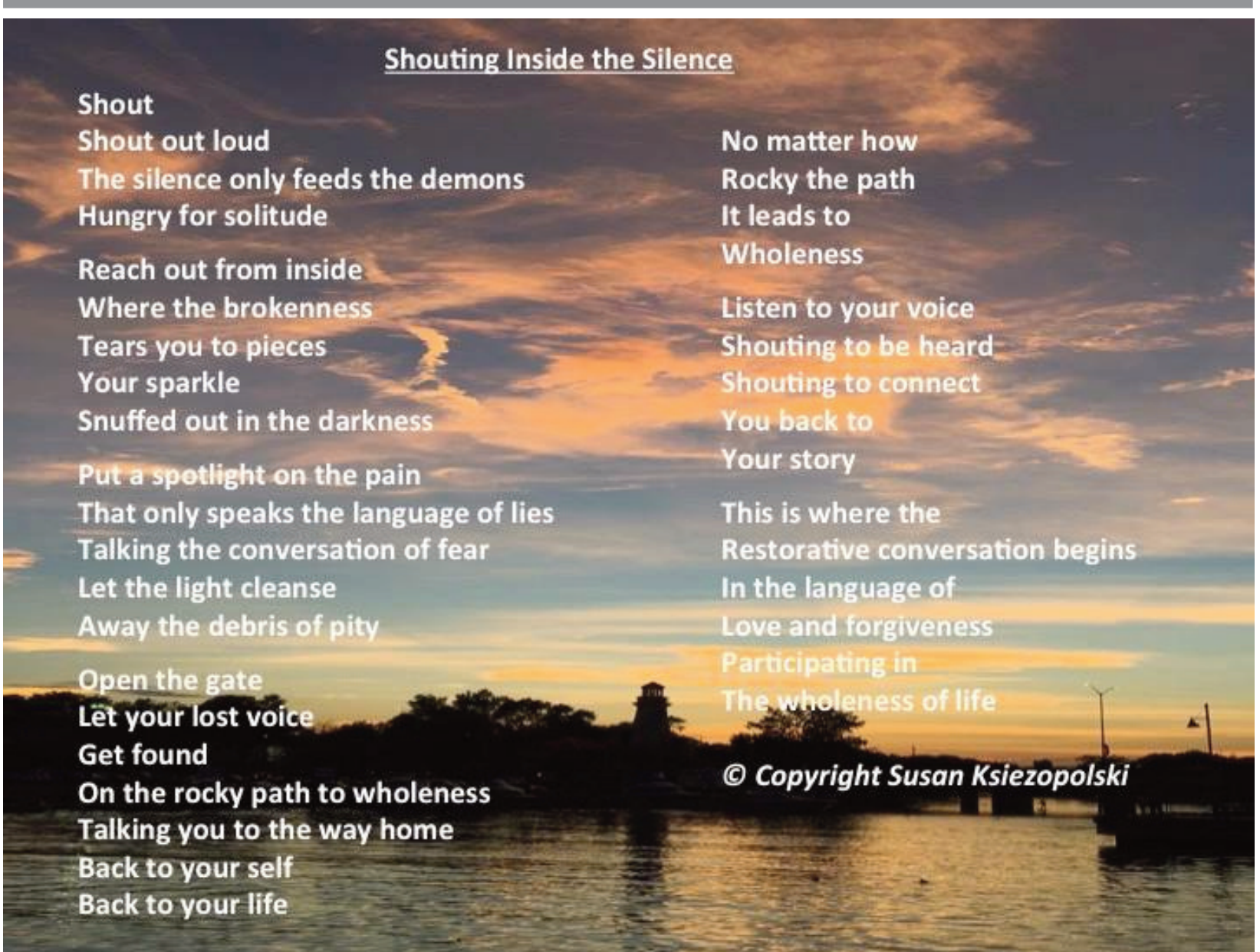
In the language of

Love and forgiveness

Participating in

The wholeness of life

© Copyright Susan Ksiezopolski



Mississauga taps aspiring writer as new Youth Poet Laureate

A local writer is lending her voice to inspire young writers in the community — in a very prestigious role.

The City of Mississauga announced Friday that Qurat Dar has been selected as the third Youth Poet Laureate for 2021-2023.

Dar will serve as a literary ambassador for youth in the city, as well as help elevate the status of poetry, literary arts and young writers through community poetry events and projects.

The honorary position recognizes a young poet who writes excellent poetry or spoken word, and has written on themes that are relevant to the citizens of the city.

Dar, a spoken word artist, organizer and multi-genre writer, was

named the 2020 Canadian Individual Poetry Slam (CIPS) National Champion last year. She was also a 2019 recipient of the Ron Lenyk Inspiring Youth Arts Award and a 2018 Best of the Net finalist.

“(I’m) absolutely honoured to get to represent youth and the literary arts in my hometown for the next two years!” Dar said after the announcement.

Dar’s work has appeared in *Canthius*, *Augur Magazine*, *Art Gallery of Mississauga* and other places. She also has a poetry chapbook (a short collection of poems) in the works with *Coven Editions*.

When not dabbling in poetry, she is busy studying environmental engineering at the University of Guelph. She is

deeply interested in the intersections between the sciences and the arts, especially in the context of the climate crisis.

The city will also celebrate National Poetry Month with its second annual Poetry Slam, being held on Apr. 29 (Thursday), beginning at 6 p.m.

The event will include several of Mississauga’s best poets tell their stories and speak their truths during the free event, which will be hosted by outgoing Mississauga Poet Laureate, Paul Edward Costa, with special guest judges scoring each performance.

For more information, visit culture.mississauga.ca/content/mississauga-poetry-month.



THE 26TH ANNUAL MISSISSAUGA ARTS AWARDS
 JUNE 17, 2021, 7PM
 MAC's YouTube: Mississauga Arts Council



THE
MARTUS
 2021



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What's Happening in "The Beach"?

With little or no public engagement, the current mayor & council are making decisions and spending taxpayers' money.

Changes to the once applauded Downtown Master Plan will effect Wasaga Beach for years to come. Our once famous Main Beach Areas are being sliced up and offered to developers, forever altering our historic beachfront and what it means to you and future generations.

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Design by Beach BOOSTER Media Group

A Marquee Bulletin of Arts and Cultural Events

by E.C. Munson

Those winds of change include our weather as we transition into warmer temperatures followed by rain in some areas and the new province-wide lockdown. With Spring Break over and virtual schooling for another two weeks after that, these options for virtual access to events and activities become even more important.

Arts & Cultural Events Celebrate History ...

Current exhibits or resources on artistic and cultural contributions are from the Black Community, indigenous Anishinaabe peoples, and Indian diaspora, all of which continue to enrich our lives. Enjoy these creative journeys and the richness of cultural diversity.

CreativeHub 1352 invites you to view “The Lost Museum” now!

After all, who knows what might get discovered, lost, forgotten, or remembered at In-Situ 2021?

This yearlong multiarts festival includes virtual programming from the CreativeHub 1352, which operates at the Small Arms Inspection Building, owned and operated by the City of Mississauga.

Explore and enjoy the links in Lost Rituals for “Ritual to Thank the Trees” and “Tea Ceremony”. Contact them at info@creativehub1352.ca for more information.



Heritage Mississauga continues the Sugar Making Moon with videos and Kim Wheatley, Grandmother Kim, by exploring the Anishinaabe teachings which follow the lunar calendar. Heritage Mississauga’s partnership with The Ontario Black History Society gives access to their YouTube channel of museum tours, entertainment, and community recognition profiles. Visit them on Youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2S3mPxqPfgY.

PAMA’s is the regional treasure for Peel with much to discover in their collections. Be sure and check their calendar for activities that will take you through to the end of Spring Break! Then continue exploring their archival exhibits and learn about the contributions of some amazing women.

“Stories of inspiring women are found in all three of the Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives’ collections. ... Whether an artist, a postal worker, an entrepreneur, or a United Nations diplomat, each woman has shaped our community. This is just the beginning. There are many stories to share, and this exhibition will grow over time.” Learn more at pama.peelregion.ca.



Museum of Dufferin has partnered with Climate Action in Dufferin for this remarkable digital exhibition, Before Your Eyes, about climate change which is now extended until Apr. 30, 2021. “Heat Waves. Flooding. Snow Storms. Drought. People are drawn to extreme events. Still more wonder how climate change will impact them. Many still believe that it isn’t real. 2019 was the hottest year on record!” Visit the experience page at the MoD website via

experience.arcgis.com/experience/2a467002e62a4361a337ebb09ae03b88.

Art Gallery of Burlington, while closed to the public for viewing and in-person workshops, “sold out” with their Spring Break activity kits. And for people who missed the virtual presentation of Monira Al Qadiri in conversation with Amin Alsaden, Ocula Magazine has you covered! Visit agb.life/visit/events/diver-monira-al-qadiri-in-conversation to read the article.



ArtTrendZ collective members are working ahead and exploring the semantics and persuasive powers that lie in the 5 W’s for writing artists statements, tag lines, and learning how to “paint with words”. They hope to get the word out for their annual Art By The Yard event in late spring when public health guidelines allow.

Classes - Workshops - Activities ...

With uncertainty around so many things in our lives right now, one thing has not changed! And that is “busy hands are happy hands” when it comes to keeping people focused on the positives in life. This old adage is true for people of all ages and stages of life. Local and regional arts and cultural organizations and artists have some exciting options, too.

Cathy Disbrow of Woolly Doodles, textile artist and felter, offers Gift Certificates, an Online Felt Party with friends, or even Private Lessons. Themed Zoom workshops range in length and pricing depending on project complexity. Greet spring and celebrate Earth Day and make a Bird Nest with Eggs on Apr. 22 or May 2. Check the schedule and stay current with creative options. Visit woollydoodles.com/newsletter-signup.



topourwithlove will offer individual or small group Zoom or Onsite small group art instruction in the exciting practice of poured acrylic paintings. Materials list supplied for all classes. Whether onsite at your location [when allowed and all public health guidelines followed] or doing a Zoom at home, explore your creativity unfettered! Consider a gift certificate for that special someone to make it a shared experience and create a memory together!



Continued on Next Page

Visual Arts Brampton has sprung into action with their try it Paint Nights and adult Zoom programming. Painting with watercolor, oils, acrylic, or soft pastels, digital photography, and drawing – the choices are inspiring. Don't miss out on the Snail Mail World Postcard Art Show. The adult class, Capturing Glistening Glass in Soft Pastels, starts Monday evenings, April 26 – May 17 with instructor, Filomena Kandola. Visit visualartsbrampton.com.

Burlington Public Library has a plethora of FREE virtual activ-



ities and cultural delights to sample. Join in their Spring Health Challenges and form a virtual team with another household for the 14 day challenges. From the Fitness Fix to the Mental Top Up and finally the Nourishing Nature challenge, join in the daily fun of accomplishing your mission. Visit www.bpl.on.ca/events to register.

Visual Arts Mississauga features virtual courses for adults and youth. Expand your artistry with VAM's fantastic mix of Online and At-VAM Studio Fine Arts Courses for Adults! Visit visualartsmississauga.com for details.

Museum of Dufferin's Learning Hub, is a treasure trove of resources! With Social Studies, Language Arts, and Games & Activities, it's time to DISCOVER, EDUCATE, and SHARE with the MOD! And don't forget to explore their exciting collections they have – from the Archival Collection, to the Artifact Collection, and the Education Collection. Visit www.dufferinmuseum.com/about-our-collections/.

Exhibitions Here and Far...

Arts On The Credit has a member-duo, Barbara Pickett and Lisa Compton, sharing some of their favourite things with us during the entire month of April. Their virtual gallery will take you on "... a journey not only around the corner, but to wonderful destinations across the globe." Choose your favorite destination from these pieces! Check them out at www.artsonthecredit.ca/gallery.

Beaux Arts Brampton: In partnership with Downtown Brampton

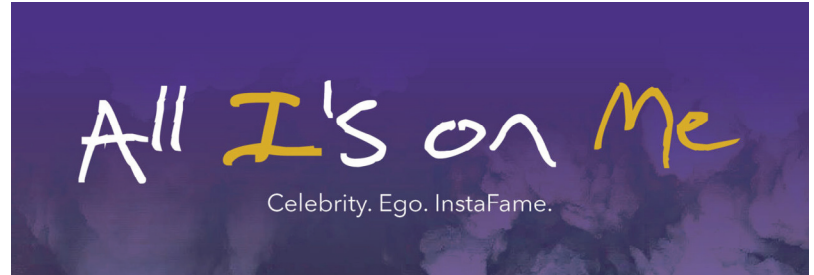


BIA and in keeping with spring and renewal, a new virtual show, Everything Beaux (www.beauxartsbrampton.org/currentexhibition), is on through Apr. 24. "Every one of us has a world of beauty inside, and the ability to find beauty in the world outside."

And do follow their blog at beauxartsbrampton.org/blog for candid conversations with artists and so much more!



Art Gallery of Mississauga's new exhibit, All I's On Me runs through June 12, showcasing the work of Visual Artist Pepe Bratanov and Luxury Artist Max Jamali. Visit artgalleryofmississauga.com/upcoming-exhibitions.



Headwaters Arts Gallery invites people to enjoy a virtual preview of ReLaunch 2021 as they await the move into the gallery when public health guidelines allow. Fine art, sculpture, and artisan pieces may be viewed and purchased online with curbside pickup available at the Alton Mill Arts Centre as people choose or reserved for pickup at a later time. Visit headwatersarts.ca/our-current-show.

Joshua Creek Heritage Art Centre: Sibyl Rampen, artist and proprietor of this wonderful heritage site, shares that ... "Art From the Heart 2021" is possibly the most important exhibition to date. It is not about artists, but about hope and healing for all challenged people. It is about teaching and inspiring people to find their Artist Within."

This current show is being run virtually – visit joshuacreekarts.com/exhibitions.

Visual Arts Mississauga announces Spring Cleaning, a VAM members' themed show, opened April 19 and may be viewed virtually here through May 2, 2021. Check it out on the exhibit website via artspaces.kunstmatrix.com/en/exhibition/5813426/spring-cleaning.



The Falls Gallery in the Alton Mill Arts Centre is currently showing NATURE RE-DESIGNED, Elemental & Earthy, through Apr. 25. Through the play of beeswax, moss, and bold pigments, Karen Brown, an encaustic mixed-media artist and Steve Sestic, an artist and practicing architect who explores natural and manufactured environments, have curated a show that exhilarates and grounds you with their interpretation of nature. Curbside pickup or delivery available. Both Brown and Sestic are Headwaters Arts members with their studios at the Mill. View their artwork at

karenbrownencaustics.com and www.srecko.com.

Taking Care of Business...

Halton Hills is busy keeping their creatives connected and networking with their Arts & Culture Meetups the last Monday of the month. On Mar. 29, the meetup presenter was Meagan Speakman of Dance Impact in Acton. Pearl Schachter, Cultural Program Producer, Economic Development, Innovation and Culture for Town of Halton Hills, convenes these meetups along with Artrepreneur Halton Hills, a 10 week program for creative entrepreneurs Wednesday evenings.

Mississauga Arts Council presents their members and the larger community with an impressive range of virtual programming. For the artist-entrepreneurs there is the TD Culture Lab: Webinar series while for community enjoyment, musicians and writers there are virtual venues such as Mac Arts Café, an online Open Mic and the Sauga Music Series in conjunction with various partners. Their MACTivities newsletter is a great weekly read of all things arts and cultural in Mississauga! Visit mississaugaartscouncil.com/programs/.

Central Counties Tourism continues to offer workshops, research, and guidance for the reopening of their members and communities in the Headwaters Region, which includes Caledon, Erin, Orangeville, and a number of destination areas. Visit centralcounties.ca.

E. Connie Munson is a local writer, photographer, and artist covers the arts and cultural scene so others may share the passion and joy of the creatives and makers. Visit her new website and subscribe to her newsletter at www.studiobydesign.ca.

What Does It Mean To Have “Authority” and “Power” As An Editor?

by **Surjit Singh Flora**

It’s funny how one little word — “editor” — can convey so much power without realizing it.

We always read newspapers, magazines and go online to read the web editions.

When we read these publications, on the “Contact Us” page or the masthead, we see editors with so many different titles— news editor, sub-editor, deputy editor, national comment page editor, life editor, and sports editor.

The list is practically endless.

As a writer, I deal with many editors every day, and have done so for the last 15-20 years.

Many times, I realized that these editors are only good with the titles, but they never have any authority or power to run a story they really believed in.

These days, it

seems that every story has to go through high officials, such as the publisher and editor in chief or managing editor.

No matter how much these editors with the titles want to run the story, or even no matter how close they to the writer, at the end of the day, they are only good with the title.

Many times, these editors need the job to put the food on the table for their families.

While I’ve met great editors, there are others who never care whether someone listens to them or not, because they only care so much about money.

In this respect, money represents choice; it represents freedom; it represents comfort; and above all, it means time.

Time is the most precious thing we have, and until the day when science

allows us to live forever, it is at a premium.

These days, we are all slaves to money. Everything we do, from paying for a pint of beer and food through to a gallon of gas, requires money.

We can’t all be a manufacturer or producer of goods, as there is nothing that we produce that would be of interest to a person who sells, say, sweets.

How we earn money depends on the level of work that we do, and to a certain degree, it is a status symbol, insofar as the size of a house, type of car we drive, etc.

Of course, there is a price for earning money. It takes time, energy, skills and/or toiling at jobs with no heart. And people who are interested only in money are, to be honest, pretty dull and often self absorbed -- not the best of compan-

ions.

Money gives these editors the title’s opportunities. It allows them to gain experiences that they could not do without money. Money will enable them to travel to more places, try new things, and meet new types of people.

Money allows them to escape from certain discomforts, such as living in a more convenient place, getting medical treatments, and avoid someone who brings pressure to their mental state.

At so the end of the day, they just

keep quiet, walk into the office to do their job, collect the paycheque, and never bother what the title actually means or the rights it gives them.

No matter how good is the story is, how much they really want it in the paper, how much time they spend on someone story to the readers’ interests come first, but when it comes to the editor-in-chief or publisher, they seem to maintain an arm’s-length distance with other writers.

This also holds true for political interests, like

political parties or their leaders — you don’t want to be the publisher holding the bag when the political entity never gives the funding, as they promised. In contrast, during the election time, they decline to be interviewed for the story.

All the hard work done by these editors and their titles are wasted if it doesn’t benefit the public good — it’s a title with no authority, no power!

At the end of it all, the readers are what matter the most. We would all do well to remember that.



All I's on Me

Celebrity. Ego. InstaFame.

April 12 - June 12, 2021

AGM

ART GALLERY OF MISSISSAUGA

Health and Wellness - Being Positive In An Uncertain World

by Elizabeth Banfalvi

Sometimes being positive is not only the hardest thing we can do for our health — it is the most important thing. So, how do we do it?

The one thing that is so important is to have faith in ourselves. We will get through the bad moments or times in our lives. We've done it so many times before and we will again in the future.

The bad times show us how strong we are and to see another way of living the moment.

We adapt and find another path to follow. The road ahead of us is not without bumps and cracks and hills and mountains, but we find a way to go past all of that.

We learn to be a better driver through the diversions. Without the

diversions, we would never become a better driver.

The decisions we make in our lives make the most impact. If we decide to be happy, we will find a way to be happy.

If we decide to be miserable, we will be.

Decisions are followed through in our minds and lives. It is up to us to make the right one.

Sometimes it is harder, but the more we keep faithful to what we want to find, we will find the moments that will fulfill what we want.

Get up each morning and decide what you want that day — happiness or misery?

You are the one who decides and can change that.

I listen to radio each day, and

what helps me regain my composure and what I want is music. So often a song will come on when I'm not feeling my best and it will change how I feel or get me tapping my foot to the melody.

Use music to find what you want. Another option is reading. It can fill us with the feeling we want.

The point is to stop worrying. Worry can be dangerous because it is built on fear.

All the 'what ifs' can create so many fears in our everyday lives. When you fear something for a long time, you can actually draw it to you. You can actually help the fear come to pass. You can create it and why would you want to do that.

Every day is new, so don't build something that

isn't there.

One of the ways you can stop worrying or fretting is to keep yourself busy. Rather than sitting around waiting for the worse, do something.

It could be simply to go for a walk — in nature, read a book, or exercise. The more you can break the momentum of fear and worry is to do something.

It is easier to gain peace by keeping busy. When the mind is focused on your physical or mental actions, the easier you can find peace and mindfulness.

The more you sit in worry and fear, the more scattered you are and less focused your mind is.

It seems to go from fear to fear or worrying about what if and your inability to move forward or per-

haps the failure if you do.

Our thoughts affect how we feel physically. When your thoughts tell you you're tired, the body accepts this and feels tired. But when your mind and thoughts are engaged and interested in what you're doing, you have the energy to keep going indefinitely.

Increase your energy when you are locked in worrying. Decide to be active.

How many times have you heard "expect the best and get the best"? It's true — what you expect, you are guaranteed to get.

When you decide that defeat is not an option, then you can change your expectations. If that is difficult at first, write yourself some positive expectations of

what you want.

Change the energy of what is to be! You are in control of that.

What is important is to cultivate a peaceful mind and be conscious of your thoughts.

Your thoughts direct you to what you want to happen whether negative or positive so decide. You deserve to be at peace with yourself and what you are doing. To be at peace means you know you are confident in yourself and know you can handle all things.

Have faith in yourself and others will also follow. Others will see in you what they want for themselves.

So, keep the faith and learn to trust yourself in all things. The path you are walking is what you know or will know.

Poetry Writing Contest

Deadline: September 30, 2021

Submit your poetry for a chance at winning \$100 1st, \$75 2nd or \$50 3rd Indigo Gift

Certificate prizes.

In association with Mississauga Arts Council
and Peel Weekly News

For submission guidelines and to submit,
email submissions@mississaugawritersgroup.com

Caledon recognizes Day of Mourning with special ceremony

Caledon staff and councillors observed a moment of silence to recognize workers who have been killed or injured during a special ceremony Wednesday morning at their regular Town Council meeting.

In honour of the National Day of Mourning, the Town invited the public to pause and observe a moment of silence to recognize the National Day of Mourning, which highlights tragedies caused by workplace-related hazards and occupational exposures.

Flags at the Town of Caledon were lowered to half-mast to pay respect to those workers, their families and friends that have been affected by these workplace incidents.

“On the Day of Mourning we remember and honour workers who have lost their lives

or been injured in workplace accidents,” said Mayor Allan Thompson. “This is also an opportunity to thank our health care heroes, essential service workers and first responders who continue to do their jobs in the face of enormous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. By renewing our commitment to creating safe workplaces, we envision a day when every worker in every community is safe.”

The date of April 28 was chosen in 1984, because on that day in 1914 Ontario proclaimed the first Workers Compensation Act in Canada. In Feb. 1991, the Federal Parliament passed the “Workers Mourning Day Act” (Bill C-223).

The National Day of Mourning is now recognized in 100 countries around the world.

Animal Services adopts facial recognition tech

Nobody wants to lose their cat or dog, but if the unthinkable happens, a new technology is now available in Brampton to help reunite lost pets with their families.

Brampton Animal Services announced earlier this week that it has become one of the first Canadian shelters to adopt an innovative facial recognition technology from Petco Love to make finding lost pets quicker and easier.

“Pets are family, and it can be devastating to lose your furry friend,” said Mayor Patrick Brown. “We are proud to announce that Brampton Animal Services will now have the facial recognition technology to help you find a lost pet if that day comes.”

Petco Love Lost is a searchable free online database that uses

patented facial recognition technology.

Pet owners can upload photos of their missing dog or cat to the website, which are immediately scanned to determine whether the lost pet is at a participating shelter – in this case, at the Brampton Animal Shelter.

Brampton Animal Services took in 562 lost dogs

and cats in 2020. Of these, only 163 dogs (67 per cent) and 36 cats (11 per cent) were returned to their families.

“We want to increase those numbers. Pets who were not returned to their owners needed to be rehomed with new families,” said Kathy Duncan, manager of animal services. “There are many

reasons why a pet may go missing, whether they were curious, wandered through an open gate, or even got scared during a storm. We hope this new initiative leads to more happy reunions between lost pets and their families for years to come.”

For more information, visit petcolovelost.org.



ANIMAL SERVICES

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feed me.**

mississauga.ca/animalservices



Brampton boosts tourism action plan

A five-year “action plan” is in the cards as Brampton councillors approved a motion last week to boost the city’s tourism sector, looking towards a COVID-19 recovery.

Brampton council approved the motion for the new tourism strategy at last week’s regular meeting, with arts and culture; food tourism; special events; and, sport tourism being cited as the city’s greatest strengths to promote tourism and attract visitors to the city.

According to the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario, before the COVID pandemic,

the economic contribution of tourism in Ontario was larger than agriculture, forestry and mining combined.

Developing Brampton as a tourism destination will support the local economy’s recovery from COVID-19, while enhancing residents’ appreciation of the city, the new strategy explains.

Pandemic health and safety guidelines have impacted all aspects of travel and tourism requiring a pivot in focus to domestic and hyper-local tourism that industry experts predict

will remain in place for years to come.

Research completed in developing the Tourism Strategy indicates people are now looking for new experiences closer to home and the Government of Ontario recently announced a Tourism Tax Credit for travel within the province.

Councillors said last Wednesday that the new strategy presents an opportunity to securely establish the city as a tourism destination for residents, and their closest neighbours.

The strategy will create a foundation

for tourism to build on and support stakeholders and the local economy.

“The strategy approved by council will move Brampton forward in becoming a tourism destination and creating a bolder future for our city,” said Wards 3 & 4 regional councillor Martin Medeiros. “It will help instill pride in our residents and businesses by showcasing all the amenities we have to offer and highlights the opportunity that tourism can play in the city’s reopening and economic recovery.”

Residents reminded to slow down and save lives

Speeding and distracted driving account for most work zone collisions, with fatal collisions happening more often from May through September.

National Work Zone Awareness Week, which runs through Apr. 30, aims to reduce collisions and save lives by highlighting the need for everyone travelling through work zones to stay alert and specifically reminds drivers to slow down and stay focused.

Work zones are any areas where construction is taking place on the road. This work can impact speed limits, sidewalks, bike lanes, turning ability and visibility within the zone.

The following tips can help keep everyone safe in work zones:

Be aware: Be aware of all signage throughout work zones as they provide important information that warns road users of ap-

proaching road conditions and disruptions.

Stay focused: Keep your eyes on the road and avoid all distractions such as cell-phones and eating.

Slow down and keep your distance: Lane closures, reduced speeds and traffic pattern shifts are common in work zones. Be alert and expect the unexpected.

Be flexible: Avoid work zones wherever possible and consider taking alternative routes.

Protect workers: Slow down as you approach workers, give them room to work and be prepared to stop.

During the current COVID-19 pandemic, essential construction activities such as water, wastewater and road infrastructure projects continue as outlined by the province’s pandemic guidelines.

For more information on work zone safety in Peel, visit peelregion.ca/construction/work-zone-safety.



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